



STRONG DEMAND IN ASIA FUELS AMERICAN GINSENG POACHING

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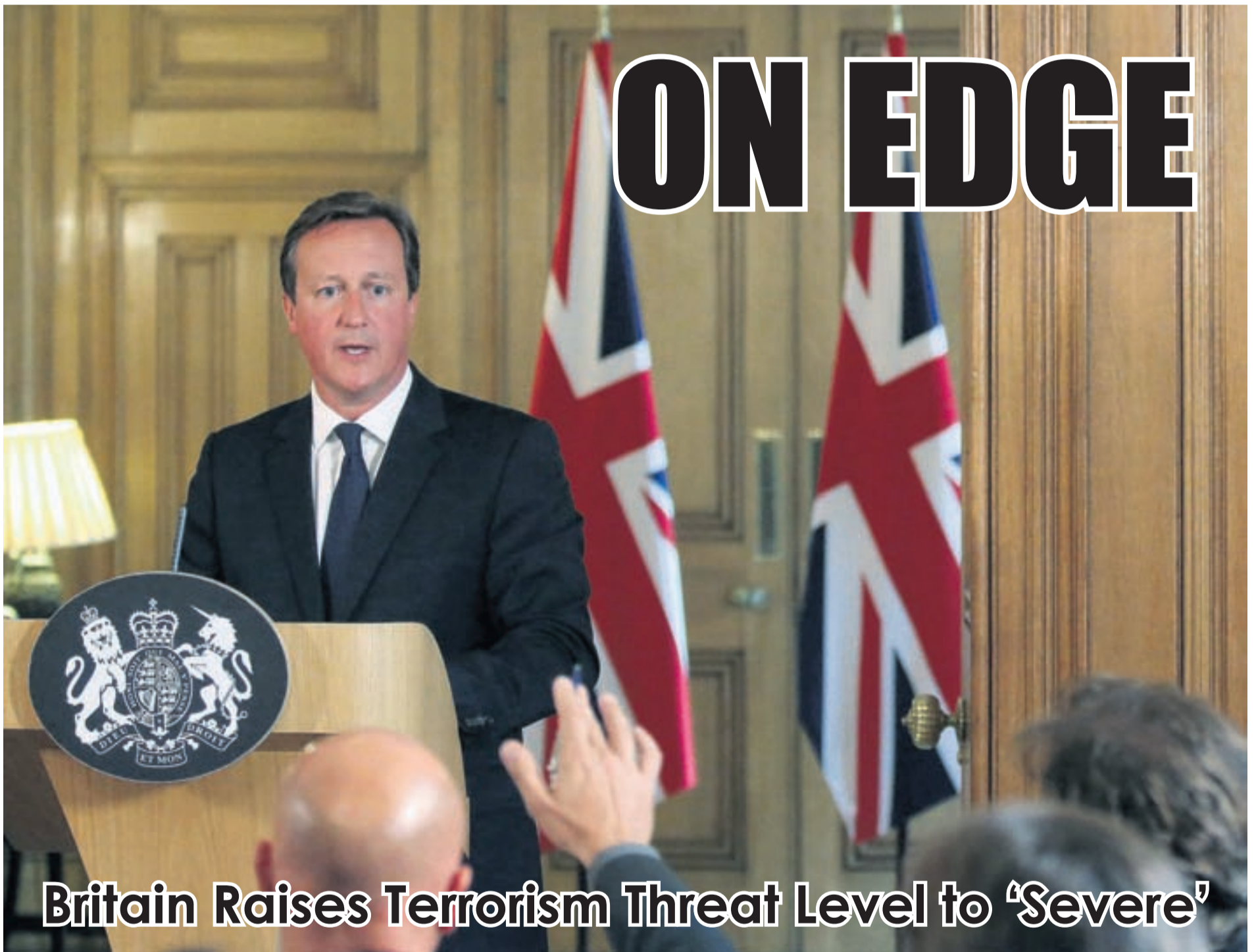


FUN & LAUGHTER ARE SERVED IN ARUBA ON THE KUKOO KUNUKU

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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, August 30, 2014



Britain Raises Terrorism Threat Level to 'Severe'

British Prime Minister David Cameron looks to answer questions from journalists during a media conference in Downing Street, London, Friday Aug. 29, 2014. The Home Secretary Theresa May has announced that UK's terror threat level is being raised from "substantial" to "severe" on Friday, meaning that a terrorist attack is considered highly likely.

(AP Photo/Paul Hackett, Pool)

ALAN COWELL

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LONDON - Alarmed by the suspected presence of hundreds of British jihadis among Sunni militants in Syria and Iraq, Britain increased its assessment of the terrorism threat on its own soil Friday and said

new laws would be introduced to counter what Prime Minister David Cameron called "a greater threat to our security than we have seen before."

The tone of the warnings recalled the days after July 7, 2005, when four suicide bombers killed 52 travelers

on the London transit system.

The show of concern, moreover, seemed intended to bolster the government's case for contentious new legislation to control terrorism suspects.

The terrorism threat level - an official designation as-

sessing the likelihood of an attack - had long been considered to be "substantial."

The new level - "severe" - meant that "a terrorist attack is highly likely, although there is no intelligence to suggest that one is imminent," Theresa May,

the home secretary, said in a statement.

The new designation is the second highest after "critical," meaning that an attack is expected imminently.

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Britain raises terrorism threat level to 'severe'

Continued from Front

The assessment is made by a panel of security experts and officials, independent of government officials. Several European nations have voiced fears that their citizens who have joined the Sunni militant Islamic State group will return home trained and equipped for terrorist acts. But the British response seemed to be among the most drastic.

"The increase in the threat level is related to developments in Syria and Iraq where terrorist groups are planning attacks against the West," May said, without offering direct evidence of those plans.

"Some of these plots are likely to involve foreign fighters who have traveled there from the U.K. and Europe to take part in those conflicts," she said. "The British public should be in no doubt that we will take the strongest possible action to protect our national security."

She added: "We face a real and serious threat in the U.K. from international terrorism. I would urge the public to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police." In what seemed a related development, Cameron told a news conference that new laws would facilitate the seizure of the passports of suspected British jihadis. He said he

would provide more detail in a statement to parliament Monday covering what he called legislation to fill "gaps in our armory." He drew a distinction between previous assess-

ments that the main threat to British security came from al-Qaida, which has broken with the Islamic State because of its extreme tactics. The group spilled across the border from Syria in June to strike at north and central Iraq, leaving a trail of executions and beheadings and threatening minority groups. "What we are facing in Iraq now with ISIL is a greater threat to our security than we have seen

before," Cameron told a news conference, using an alternative acronym for the Islamic State. Security considerations at home are only a part of the challenge presented by such action a year ago. Cameron said British intelligence and security officials believed the number of Britons joining jihadist groups in Syria and, potentially, Iraq exceeded



British Prime Minister David Cameron delivers a report to the media in Downing Street, London, Friday Aug. 29, 2014. Britain's Home Secretary Theresa May has announced that UK's terror threat level is being raised from "substantial" to "severe" on Friday, meaning that a terrorist attack is considered highly likely.

(AP Photo/Facundo Arrizabalaga, Pool)

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the Islamic State advance. Britain has offered to arm Kurdish forces in northern Iraq and has flown surveillance missions in support of humanitarian airdrops. But President Barack Obama has confirmed that he had asked Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel for options for military strikes in Syria, and there has been much speculation here that Britain may be asked for support, even though Parliament refused to authorize

500. By contrast, U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies have identified nearly a dozen Americans who have traveled to Syria to fight for the Islamic State, which the Obama administration says poses the greatest threat to the United States since al-Qaida before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Echoing that assessment, Cameron said the Islamic State was effectively a state run by terrorists. □

CARIBBEAN NEWS BEAT

Life in slaying of lawmaker from Curacao

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao (AP)

— A judge in Curacao has sentenced one man to life in prison and acquitted two others in the May 2013 slaying of a prominent political leader on the southern Caribbean island.

The judge found Elvis Kuwas guilty on charges including murder in the death of Helmin Wiels and sentenced him to life in prison. Two alleged accomplices were acquitted in the slaying of Wiels but convicted on unrelated weapons and robbery charges. The prosecutor's office said in a statement it is considering an appeal of Friday's verdicts for the alleged accomplices. Wiels was a prominent member of Parliament and a founder of the pro-independence Pueblo Soberano. Prosecutors have not disclosed the motive in the slaying and say an investigation into who ordered the killing remains open. □

Jamaican ends legal challenge to sodomy law

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A Jamaican gay rights activist who brought a legal challenge to the Caribbean island's anti-sodomy law says he has withdrawn the case after growing fearful about safety. Last year, Javed Jaghai made headlines after initiating a constitutional court challenge to Jamaica's 1864 law that bans sex between men. But in an affidavit, Jaghai said he has been "threatened enough times to know that I am vulnerable." He believes his "loved ones are under threat." On Friday, Janet Burak of New York-based advocacy group AIDS-Free World said the fear that pushed Jaghai to end his challenge "is the same fear that keeps gay men in Jamaica underground." □

Dutch government clamps down on radicalization

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Dutch government unveiled a package of measures Friday aimed at countering radicalization of Muslims in the country, a day after police announced the arrest of two men suspected of recruiting people to fight in conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

The proposals include beefing up the government's powers to strip people of their Dutch nationality if they join terrorist organizations overseas or play a role — as teacher or student — in foreign terror training

camps.

They also are aimed at countering the spread of extremism online and via social media by tackling Internet providers that knowingly allow terror organizations to spread jihadi propaganda.

"In the Netherlands, there is no room for spreading hate or extremism," Prime Minister Mark Rutte's government said in a statement. Justice and Security Minister Ivo Opstelten said about 130 Dutch citizens have already traveled to the Middle East to fight with

militants group like Islamic State and al-Qaida and more than 30 have already returned.

The Dutch and other governments around Europe say such returning jihadis — radicalized, hardened by brutal conflict and trained to kill — pose a significant risk to society.

The British government raised its terror threat level from substantial to severe Friday, meaning that a terrorist attack is considered highly likely.

Home Secretary Theresa May said the decision was

related to developments in Iraq and Syria, but that there was no information to suggest an attack was imminent.

Some of the plots are likely to involve fighters who have traveled from Britain and Europe to take part in fighting in the Middle East. In The Hague, Opstelten stressed that radical Muslims in the Netherlands form a "small but dangerous" minority in the Muslim population.

There are around 1 million Muslims in the overall Dutch population of 17 million. □

US sanctions over 25 firms, individuals over aiding Iran

DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Friday sanctioned more than 25 businesses, banks and individuals suspected of working to expand Iran's nuclear program, support terrorism and help Iran evade U.S. and international sanctions.

The action is part of the Obama administration's effort to show it will enforce existing sanctions even as it works with other world powers to negotiate a deal to curtail Iran's nuclear program. Last year, they struck an interim deal that saw Iran agree to limit its uranium enrichment in return for the easing of some economic sanctions.

Negotiators now face a November deadline to come to a final deal.

"Treasury's action against over 25 entities and individuals, who are involved in expanding Iran's proliferation program, supporting terrorism in the region and helping Iran evade U.S. and international sanctions, reflects our continuing determination to take action against anyone, anywhere, who violates our sanctions," Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen said in a statement.

As a result of the action, Americans are banned from engaging in transactions with any of the designated parties, freezes their assets and blocks all their property or interests in property under U.S. jurisdiction.

Treasury's action targets suspected supporters of Iran's missile and nuclear programs, a bank allegedly involved in providing U.S. dollar bank notes to the Iranian government, those evading existing oil sanctions and people suspected of providing channels through which Iran supports terrorism and the government of President Bashar Assad in Syria.

Among those targeted

was the Moscow-based Asia Bank, which the department claims has violated sanctions imposed to prevent Iran's government from acquiring U.S. currency. In mid-2014, Asia Bank converted and facilitated the delivery from Moscow to representatives of the Iranian government more than \$13 million in U.S. dollar bank notes, the department said.

Treasury also acted against Meraj Air, an Iranian government airline suspected of ferrying weapons and other cargo to the Syrian government; Caspian Air, an Iran-based airline that the department says is providing support to Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps by transporting people and weapons from Iran to Syria; and Sayyed Jabar Hosseini, a senior Iranian official who has allegedly coordinated Iranian shipments to support terrorist activities outside Iran.

The department also targeting those suspected of evading sanctions on Iranian oil sales, including Faylaca Petroleum, based in Dubai; and Abdelhak Kaddouri of Bern, Switzerland, who is the financial chief of the U.S.-sanctioned National Iranian Oil Co. and owner of the U.S.-sanctioned Swiss Management Services Sarl.

Also sanctioned were Mohammad Javad and Arman Imanirad, both based in Iran, for acting on behalf of a company suspected of procuring aluminum products for Iran's nuclear program; and Nefertiti Shipping, an Egypt-based shipping company that services the National Iranian Tanker Co. and other tankers suspected of moving crude oil to Syria through the Suez Canal.

In addition, the State Department imposed sanctions against four companies suspected of trying to contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. □

Obama said to weigh delaying action on immigration

MICHAEL D. SHEAR
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WASHINGTON - Under pressure from nervous Democratic Senate candidates in tight races, President Barack Obama is rethinking the timing of his pledge to act on his own to reshape the nation's immigration system by summer's end

summer. But now Obama and his aides appear to be backing away from a firm commitment to that timing. In remarks to reporters this week, Obama hinted at the possibility of a delay. "Some of these things do affect timelines, and we're just going to be working through as systematically

whether the president was considering delaying some of his decisions until later this year.

Inside the White House, the timing of an announcement has become the subject of a fierce debate.

Some of Obama's advisers are urging him to postpone it, fearful of the political



Demonstrators protest for immigration reform outside the White House in Washington.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

and could instead delay some or all of his most controversial proposals until after the midterm elections in November, according to people familiar with White House deliberations.

The president had said he would announce a decision soon after receiving recommendations from top aides at the end of the

as possible in order to get this done," Obama said. "But have no doubt, in the absence of congressional action, I'm going to do what I can to make sure the system works better."

White House officials declined to repeat the president's earlier pledge of an announcement by the end of this summer, or to say

ramifications of a sweeping action to protect millions of illegal immigrants from deportation and provide many of them official work papers. Such a move by the president, some senior officials worry, could set off a pitched fight with Republicans and dash hopes for Democrats running in conservative states. □

Pentagon:

Iraq operations cost \$560 million so far

ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military operations in Iraq, including airstrikes and surveillance flights, have cost about \$560 million since mid-June, the Pentagon said Friday.

Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said the average daily cost has been \$7.5 million. He said it began at a much lower rate in June and escalated after the airstrikes in northern Iraq began this

month. After he spoke, the U.S. Central Command announced four additional airstrikes, bringing the total since they began on Aug. 8 to 110. Central Command said Friday's missions by U.S. fighter and attack aircraft destroyed four armed vehicles and three support vehicles in the vicinity of the Mosul Dam. One armed vehicle was damaged, it said without providing more details.

Asked why U.S. warplanes are still pounding the Mosul

Dam area, long after U.S. officials said local Kurdish and Iraqi forces had regained control from the Islamic State forces, Kirby said, "Because ISIL keeps wanting to take it back," using an acronym for the group.

"They keep threatening the dam and the facility. And as long as they pose a threat to that facility, we are going to continue to help Iraqi security forces preserve their ownership of it," he added. □



Obama's tan suit buzzed around the world



In this Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014 photo, President Barack Obama smiles as he takes questions about the economy, Iraq, and Ukraine, in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, before convening a meeting with his national security team on the militant threat in Syria and Iraq. Obama's summer fashion choice, not unprecedented among presidents - himself included - was the talk of social media, Thursday. Other presidents who have taken on tan include Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush and Dwight Eisenhower. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Quick! What exactly did President Barack Obama say from the White House briefing room about Syria, Iraq and Ukraine while dressed in the tan suit buzzed 'round the world?

Precisely. If you get all your news from social media. Obama's summer fashion choice, not unprecedented among presidents — himself included — was the talk of social media Thursday. It was both defended as a perfectly appropriate seasonal look and criticized as too big and wholly unpresidential for such serious subject matter.

The Twitter jeers flew: "Taupe and change," one said. Another tweeter riffed off the title of his book with "The audacity of taupe." While Obama usually dresses in traditional power dark suits, he did don tan for Easter this year. But not while discussing possible U.S. military intervention in the Middle East.

Other presidents who have taken on tan include Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush and Dwight Eisenhower. In fact, George W. Bush had a suit that his staff called Big Brown. As in, "Oh, no, he's wearing Big Brown today."

In keeping with his times, Franklin D. Roosevelt was fond of white.

Obama's suit accompanied his telling reporters "we don't have a strategy yet" on U.S. military action in Syria against the Islamic State, a violent militant group seeking to establish dominance in the Middle East. He spoke shortly before he met with security advisers.

"The power persona? Gone in that suit," said Los

Angeles image consultant Patsy Cisneros, who has worked with U.S. senators, governors and corporate executives. (She has yet to snag a president or a presidential candidate).

"Everything below his neck was blah. That's not conducive to him being listened to," she said Friday.

One person who didn't take issue with Obama's light tan suit: Steve Schmidt, the Republican strategist who helped lead Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. That would be the same campaign where the Republican National Committee spent thousands on Sarah Palin's clothes and look.

"I think it was a nice looking suit," the blunt-talking Schmidt bellowed into the phone Friday from Park City, Utah. "Ronald Reagan used to wear brown, tan and khaki suits with some frequency, and I think he looked fine."

Of the social media flap, Schmidt added: "It just means that the director of the movie 'Idiocracy' is a genius with great foresight. As the Russians invade Ukraine and ISIS storms across the Middle East ... we're focused on the president's suit." It wasn't the first fashion flurry for Obama. Granted he's the first president who's spent his entire two terms in the grips of fast-moving social media. Back in 2009, before Twitter, Facebook and other platforms were the meme beasts they are today, Obama was panned for wearing "mom jeans" when he threw the first pitch at the All-Star Game. The message of the suit, Cisneros said, was that of the "everyman, more at the bottom of the totem pole, more of, 'I'm a team player, not the leader.'"

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US judge halts key part of Texas abortion law

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A U.S. judge Friday threw out new abortion restrictions that would have effectively banned the procedure at most facilities in Texas, the latest battleground in the ongoing battle over the divisive issue.

U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel sided with clinics that sued over one of the most disputed measures of a sweeping anti-abortion bill signed by Republican Gov. Rick Perry in 2013. The ruling stops new restrictions that would have essentially closed more than a dozen clinics, leaving seven abortion facilities in Texas by Sept. 1, according to groups challenging the law.

Abortion has been a much-debated issue in the U.S. in the decades since the Supreme Court affirmed a right to the procedure, and several states have tried to chip away at access under a variety of laws and proposed laws.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican who is the favorite to become governor next year, vowed to seek an immediate appeal to try to preserve the new clinic rules.

Opposition to the Texas



The Hilltop Women's Reproductive clinic is photographed in El Paso, Texas. A federal judge Friday, Aug. 29, 2014, threw out new Texas abortion restrictions that would have effectively closed more than a dozen clinics in the state. U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel sided with clinics that sued over one of the most disputed measures of a sweeping anti-abortion bill signed by Republican Gov. Rick Perry in 2013.

law was so visible that Democrat Wendy Davis launched her campaign for governor behind the celebrity she achieved through a nearly 13-hour filibuster last summer that temporarily blocked the bill in the state Senate. Her opponent in November is Abbott. The ruling blocks a portion of the that law would have required abortion facilities in Texas to meet hospital-level operating standards,

which supporters say will protect women's health. But Yeakel concluded the intent was only to "close existing licensed abortion clinics."

Clinics called it a backdoor effort to outlaw abortions, which has been a constitutional right since a landmark ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973. Outraged abortion clinic owners say they can't afford to make those upgrades,

which they criticize as unnecessary.

The more stringent Texas requirements would have mandated operating rooms and air filtration systems. Some clinics already no longer offer abortions after another part of the 2013 bill required doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals.

Similar laws about admitting privileges have been blocked by federal courts

in Mississippi, Kansas and Wisconsin.

Attorneys for the state denied that women would be burdened by fewer abortion facilities, saying nearly 9 in 10 women in Texas would still live within 150 miles (240 kilometers) of a provider. Critics say that still leaves nearly a million Texas women embarking on drives longer than three hours to get an abortion.

Under the new restrictions, the only remaining abortion facilities in Texas would have been in major cities, and there would have been none in the entire western half of the second-largest U.S. state. For women in El Paso, the closest abortion provider would be in New Mexico — an option the state wanted Yeakel to take into consideration, even though New Mexico's rules for abortion clinics are far less rigorous.

"It's an undue burden for women in Texas — and thankfully today the court agreed," said Amy Hagstrom Miller, CEO of Whole Woman's Health, which would have been among the clinic operators affected. "The evidence has been stacking up against the state and against the politicians who so cynically passed these laws in the name of safety." □

(AP Photo/Juan Carlos Llorca)



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Louisiana:

Landrieu's residency raises questions in Senate race

DAVID S. JOACHIM
JONATHAN WEISMAN
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WASHINGTON - The embattled re-election campaign of Sen. Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana was damaged further Friday by the revelation that she uses her parents' home address to establish her residency in the state.

Landrieu, a Democrat whose campaign is one of a handful that could determine control of the Senate, is registered to vote at a home in New Orleans that is owned by her parents but lists her Capitol Hill home as her address in regulatory documents, The Washington Post reported, based on the senator's filings.

On Friday, the senator's main opponent pounced. "Senator Landrieu belongs in Washington, D.C. She just chooses Louisiana to get re-elected," the challenger, Rep. Bill Cassidy, a Republican, posted on Twitter.

Landrieu's campaign defended the senator's living arrangements, noting that she and her family own the New Orleans home together and that Landrieu and her husband pay taxes and vote in the state.

In a written statement, Landrieu said: "I have lived at my home on Prieur Street most of my life and I live there now, when not fulfilling my duties in Washington or serving constituents



Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.), chairwoman of the Senate Energy Committee, between votes on an unemployment extension, in Washington. The embattled re-election campaign of Landrieu was damaged further on Friday, Aug. 29, 2014, by the revelation that she uses her parents' home address to establish her residency in the state.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

across the state." The Post quoted a memo from her lawyers stating that the senator was "not disqualified simply because she maintains a residence in the District of Columbia in order to serve Louisiana." It is unclear how the question of Landrieu's residency might affect her standing with voters. In 2012, Sen. Richard G. Lugar of Indiana, a Republican who had been in office for three decades, lost his re-election bid after reports that he stayed in hotels when he visited his district. The Landrieu family has deep roots in Louisiana. The senator's brother, Mitch Landrieu, is the mayor of New Orleans. Bernie Pinsonat, a Louisiana pollster, said the question of Mary Landrieu's residency reminded him of a similar episode involving another Louisiana Democrat,

former Sen. John B. Breaux. Breaux had prepared to run for governor in 2007 but then abandoned the effort after the state attorney general refused to declare him a Louisiana "citizen" under the state's Constitution. "I don't need a poll to tell that it doesn't sit well with voters when public officials vacate Louisiana and don't really live here anymore," said Pinsonat, who works for both Democrats and Republicans. "I don't know what will happen, but I don't think it's a positive revelation for her." In an interview in January, Landrieu's father, Moon Landrieu, a former mayor of New Orleans, said that when his daughter visited New Orleans, "She still has her bedroom. She slept there last night and will sleep there again tonight." Mary Landrieu, in a sepa-

rate interview at the time, described her quarters as a "little apartment," adding that she "had to go back to my old bedroom and my old single bed." The issue of residency has become a recurring theme in the 2014 battle for the Senate, arising in Alaska, Kansas, Mississippi, New Hampshire and now Louisiana. The question it raises is how "home state" a candidate has to be to represent that state. In Alaska, Democrats have lashed Lt. Gov. Dan Sullivan for his recent move from Ohio to a state that is famously insular. In New Hampshire, former Sen. Scott Brown's move from Massachusetts was the first hurdle he had to cross before posing a credible threat to Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat and a longtime fixture in the Granite State. □

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US Financial Front:

American consumer spending dips 0.1 percent

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer spending fell in July, with a drop in auto purchases accounting for most of the weakness. Income growth also slowed.

Consumer spending edged down 0.1 percent last month after a 0.4 percent increase in June, the Commerce Department reported Friday. It was the first decline in spending since January. Income growth slowed to 0.2 percent in July, the weakest showing in seven months.

The fall in spending came primarily from a decline in auto sales, which took a breather in July after posting big gains in recent months, although spending in other areas was also weak.

Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, so it needs to recover for the economy to keep its momentum in the second half of the year.

Economists had expected spending would slow in July based on reports of weak retail sales, but they said the slowdown should be temporary given the fact that job growth has been so strong. The combination of rising incomes from more people working and falling gas prices, which will give consumers more to spend on other items, is expected to lift spending in coming months.

Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said he was still forecasting overall economic growth will come close to 3 percent in the July-September quarter.

The July spending decline reflected a 0.7 percent drop in purchases of durable goods such as autos and a smaller 0.1 percent dip in purchases of non-durable goods. Spending on services was flat, which reflected in part less spending on utilities because of cooler-than-normal weather in July.

With a slight income gain and spending declining,

the personal saving rate rose to 5.7 percent of after-tax income in July, up from 5.4 percent in June. The July saving rate was the highest since it stood at 10.5 percent in December 2012.

An inflation gauge tied to consumer spending edged up 0.1 percent in July and was 1.6 percent higher than 12 months ago. That is still below the Federal Reserve's inflation target of 2 percent, although it is up from its recent lows of 1 percent increases year-over-year.

The government reported Thursday that the overall economy grew at an annual rate of 4.2 percent in the April-June quarter, even faster than the previous estimate. It was a solid rebound after the economy went into reverse in the January-March quarter, shrinking at an annual rate of 2.1 percent. That setback came in the wake of unusually cold weather that kept shoppers away from the malls, reduced factory production and

disrupted other economic activities.

Analysts are hopeful that the momentum that emerged during the second quarter will keep pushing the economy forward in coming months. Many ex-

pect growth in the current quarter to come in around 3 percent, and they believe the economy will expand by around 3 percent in the fourth quarter as well. Much of that optimism stems from strong job

growth this year. Jobs gains have averaged 244,000 a month since February, the best six-month string in eight years. Those gains have pushed the unemployment rate down to 6.2 percent.



A cashier hands a customer his change and receipt during a transaction at a Sears store, in Henderson, Nev. The US Commerce Department released personal income and spending for July 2014 on Friday, Aug. 29, 2014.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)



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In America; Asian demand fuels ginseng poaching

MITCH WEISS
Associated Press
ASHEVILLE, North Carolina (AP) — A rising number of people are traipsing through U.S. national forests, state parks, and even private property to hunt ginseng, threatening the survival of a plant in high demand in Asia.

Digging ginseng — or 'sang, as some still call it — has been a tradition in the U.S. Appalachian region for generations. And it's not illegal for people to harvest ginseng on their own property. The Chinese have used ginseng for thousands of years as everything from only way he knows to make a living. After Hurley's latest in a long string of arrests, federal prosecutors had enough. They told a U.S. magistrate Thursday that poaching by Hurley and others in the national forests in western North Carolina has dramatically reduced the numbers



Jim Corbin leads volunteers as they search for wild ginseng plants in a forest are near Bryson City, N.C. The legal ginseng hunting season begins Sept. 16, and Corbin and his colleagues are spreading harmless yellow dye on the plant's roots to discourage poachers. He says dealers are alerted not to buy plants with the dyed roots. But with wild ginseng root fetching upward of \$900 a pound, untold numbers of poachers have taken to local forests.

(AP Photo/Mitch Weiss)

Authorities are trying to crackdown, sentencing one poacher to more than five months in prison this week.

With prices skyrocketing, poachers often camp out deep in hardwood forests of western North Carolina, digging up the slow-growing plant for its two- and three-prong roots, said Wes Mullins, a National Park Service ranger. They can get up to \$200 for fresh roots. Dried roots can go for more than \$900 because of the strong demand, mostly from eastern Asian markets. "We only catch a small fraction of what's going on here," Mullins said. "Most of them are woodsmen and they know the mountains better than we do."

"We just have to keep trying. Otherwise, the plant will go extinct," he added.

an aphrodisiac to an elixir of longevity. But Asian ginseng has become virtually extinct due in part to over-harvesting.

Some large-scale farms in China, the United States and other countries grow ginseng, said Jim Hamilton, the Watauga County extension director.

But wild American ginseng is the most desired and fetches the most money because of its potency. And it only grows in selected cool climates, such as the Appalachian Mountains. It flourishes in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which straddles the border of North Carolina and Tennessee.

On June, 28, Mullins arrested ginseng poacher Billy Joe Hurley, a broke and down-on-his-luck man who had once more turned the

of wild ginseng.

Prosecutor David Thorne said they needed to send a message: Illegal ginseng harvesting won't be tolerated.

Hurley, 46, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 5½ months in jail — the fifth time in a decade that Hurley has been sentenced for illegal possession or harvesting of ginseng. He could have received up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

But Magistrate Dennis Howell said he didn't fine Hurley because he knew he couldn't pay it.

Each September, the U.S. Forest Service sets a legal harvesting period for the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests, issuing permits that limit how much can be gathered. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: Are there any updates on the airliner that disappeared at the beginning of March?

-- Robert Walker, Villa Rica, Ga.

A: The Australian Transport Safety Bureau contracted with Fugro, a Dutch firm, to continue the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which is believed to have disappeared with 239 passengers in the Indian Ocean on March 8. The search has shifted to a 23,200-square-mile area west of Australia, about 600 miles south of the previous zone.

Q: ISIS is persecuting the Yazidi people. What is the cultural, religious and ethnic background of the Yazidis?

-- Ursula Cox, Canton, Ga.

A: The Yazidis live mostly in northern Iraq and are predominantly Kurdish. They're named for their religion, which takes its beliefs from Zoroastrianism (an ancient pre-Islamic Persian faith), Christianity and Islam, but doesn't have a written text. The group is headed by a hereditary prince and they worship seven angels, including one called the Peacock Angel. He fell from heaven, but repented and his tears "doused the flames of hell," The New York Times reported. The Ottoman Empire, Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida are among those who have persecuted the Yazidis throughout history.

Q: What's the educational background of Edward Snowden, who keeps showing up on the news? How did he get so far up to know all that?

-- Richard Martin, Austell, Ga.

A: Snowden always was considered smart by his friends and family, and has taken college level classes, but doesn't have a degree. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 2004, but was discharged after breaking both legs in training. Snowden was hired by the University of Maryland's Center for Advanced Study of Language in 2005, and the CIA hired him in 2006, where he excelled with computers. That led to a consulting job with Dell, which assigned Snowden to a National Security Agency facility in Japan. It's thought that he stole up to 200,000 documents while in this position. Snowden resigned from Dell in March 2013 to work for Booz Allen Hamilton, a U.S. defense contractor, which provided him with access to "1.7 to 1.8 million" documents, the Wall Street Journal reported. Snowden, who has been charged with espionage and theft of government property after leaking classified documents to the media, lives in Russia, where he has a three-year residence permit.

Q: Who has the authority to make public health decisions like allowing Ebola patients to be admitted into our country? Who specifically gave the permission in the case of the two missionary doctors treated at Emory?

-- Susan Venable, Lawrenceville, Ga.

A: The decision to transport two Americans with Ebola to the U.S. was a collaboration between the U.S. State Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Emory University Hospital. When the charitable organization Samaritan's Purse contacted the State Department about bringing the two patients to the U.S., it then contacted the CDC and Emory, where CEO Robert Bachman gave the final approval. "These were medical missionaries who put themselves on the line. American, medical missionaries. □



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Ukraine:

Rebels advance on key port, in hint at Putin's strategy

ANDREW E. KRAMER

ANDREW ROTH

© 2014 New York Times

NOVOAZOVSK, Ukraine - Backed by Russian troops and weaponry, hundreds of Ukrainian rebel militiamen mobilized on Friday in this southeastern town, vacated by the Ukrainian military two days ago, and began to push toward the strategic seaport of Mariupol 27 miles away. The leader of the rebels called the advance a broad new effort to wrest control of a wide swath of coastal territory from the central government.

The militiamen flew the flag of Novorossiya, or New Russia, a reference to Russia's historical claims over the southeastern area of Ukraine that encompasses the rebellious Donetsk and Luhansk regions under siege by the Ukrainian army. Their thrust toward Mariupol, the biggest city in the southeast, was the most prominent evidence that the insurgency in eastern Ukraine bordering Russia has been given a new infusion of vitality by President Vladimir Putin of Russia. It came as Putin directly addressed the insurgents for the first time on Friday in a message posted on his website in which he called them the fighters of Novorossiya.

The developments offered new insights into the strategy of Putin, who has supported the rebels in defiance of the United States and its Western allies as part of a broader effort to keep Ukraine within Russia's sphere of influence. The rebel advance along the southeastern coast suggested Putin may be establishing the basis for a

more independent eastern Ukraine, or for an overland route from Russia to Crimea, the southern Ukrainian peninsula that Russia annexed five months ago. Ukraine and the West have accused

Russia of increasingly brazen military aggression, sending troops, tanks and other weapons across the border to support the rebels.

The Kremlin has denied the accusations and asserted that any Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine are volunteers on vacation.

A takeover of Mariupol, an industrial city of 450,000, would go a long way toward helping the separatists gain control over land that would connect Russia to Crimea.

"We plan to take Mariupol," said a commander of the rebels in Novoazovsk, who identified himself by his nickname, Svet. "Now we are fighting for the southeast of Ukraine for Novorossiya."

Journalists who visited Mariupol earlier Friday saw Ukrainian workers digging trenches with backhoes and building defensive positions in anticipation of an assault. Civilian residents, household belongings piled into their cars, were leaving.

While Ukrainian militiamen manned Novoazovsk checkpoints, evidence of a Russian presence was abundant, including unmarked Russian military vehicles with no license plates. A soldier on a truck greeted journalists and shouted in English: "Back in the USSR!"

A cashier at a Novoazovsk grocery store said Russian soldiers had purchased sausages and cigarettes

earlier. Asked how she knew they were Russian soldiers, the cashier, who

identified herself as Olga, snapped: "You think I've only lived one day?"

Putin, who resurrected the Novorossiya idea after the Crimean annexation. □



President Vladimir Putin while attending an education forum for students in Seliger, northwest of Moscow, Aug. 29, 2014. In a rare direct address to the pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, Putin hailed on Friday the success of a recent rebel offensive and asked that a humanitarian corridor be opened to allow encircled Ukrainian Army units to retreat.

(Mikhail Klimentyev/RIA Novosti/Pool via The New York Times)



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Abbas: Hamas caused prolonged war

**M. DARAGHMEH
IAN DEITCH
Associated Press
RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)** — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas blamed Hamas on Friday for extending fighting with Israel in the Gaza Strip, casting doubt on the future of the

tyrs, 10,000 injured, 50,000 houses (destroyed)," Abbas told Palestine TV in remarks broadcast Friday. He said Hamas had insisted on discussing demands first before ending the war, which only served to prolong the violence needlessly. The war began after three

a month ago what it accepted today, and if it had accepted then what it accepted now, how much bloodshed could have been avoided." The two sides agreed on Tuesday to an open-ended truce. The cease-fire brought an immediate end



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas attends a meeting in Cairo. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas blamed Hamas on Friday for extending fighting with Israel in the Gaza Strip, (AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

Palestinian unity government that the Islamic militant group backs, while Israel's premier said the end of the war could mark resumption of peace talks with Abbas.

Benjamin Netanyahu stressed that it is still early to tell "if the new reality" would allow a political process to resume but said he is examining the possibility. The remarks by the leaders come a few days after Israel and Hamas militants reached a truce after 50 bitter days of fighting. More than 2,100 Palestinians were killed, including hundreds of civilians. Seventy one people on the Israeli side, including six civilians were killed.

Several Egyptian mediated cease-fire attempts during the conflict failed. Hamas eventually accepted almost the same truce offered at the beginning.

"It was possible for us to avoid all of that, 2,000 mar-

Israeli teens were killed in the West Bank by Hamas operatives in June, prompting Israel to arrest hundreds of Hamas members there. Rocket fire from Gaza on Israeli cities then escalated and Israel launched a massive air and later ground campaign in retaliation. Fighting lasted almost two months.

Egyptian mediators tried early on to get the sides to agree to a ceasefire. Several temporary truces were broken by Gaza militants.

"The Egyptian formula was on the table on July 15th, it was backed by the Arab League, it was accepted by Israel but rejected by Hamas then and now more than a month later has belatedly been accepted by Hamas," Israeli government spokesman Mark Reggev said.

"As the dust clears from the conflict I'm sure many people in Gaza will be asking why did Hamas reject

to the fighting but left key issues unresolved. Hamas immediately declared victory, even though it has very little to show for the war.

While Israel agreed to loosen a long-standing blockade to allow humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials into Gaza, many of the border restrictions will remain in place. Hamas, meanwhile, rejected Israel's demands that it disarm. These deeper matters are to be addressed in indirect talks in Egypt next month.

Abbas, whose Palestinian Authority formed a unity government backed by Hamas earlier this year questioned the future of that arrangement in the interview.

The unity government was meant to put an end to the animosity between the two Palestinian groups from when Hamas overran Gaza in 2007, ousting forces from the Fatah party□

Democracy battle: Beijing set to dismay Hong Kong

**KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press**

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's simmering summer of discontent gets even hotter Sunday when Beijing is expected to recommend restricting the first direct elections for the Chinese-controlled financial hub's leader, stepping up chances of a showdown with democracy groups.

The former British colony, which was handed back to China in 1997, has been the scene of escalating tension for the past year after activists threatened a mass sit-in paralyzing the financial district if Beijing rules out genuine democratic reforms.

While both sides agree that residents should be allowed to elect the territory's leader, known as the chief executive, starting in 2017, they're deadlocked over how to choose candidates. The pro-democracy contingent wants the public to be able to nominate people freely, but communist leaders in Beijing refuse, insisting that an elite body must vet candidates who above all must be patriotic to China.

That resembles the current system to pick the leader using a 1,200-member panel stacked with mostly pro-Beijing elites.

China's legislature is expected to address the issue directly for the first time Sunday by issuing guidelines that are expected to hew to that stance. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in Beijing will recommend that voters choose from up to three candidates named by a similar nominating body while the public gets no say, Hong Kong newspapers reported this week.

Democracy activists are threatening to fight back, with the major Occupy Central movement pledging waves of protest that could culminate in a last-ditch rally with at least 10,000 demonstrators blocking streets in Central, the financial district and symbolic heart of the city. Student leaders are also considering a walkout of university classes next month if Beijing doesn't agree to its demand to allow the public to nominate candidates.

"There will be no more daydreaming" after Sunday's decision, said Alex Chow, secretary general of the Hong Kong Federation of Students. "The hard fact is that they will not give true democratic reform to Hong Kong."

After China regained control of Hong Kong, it agreed to let it maintain a high degree of control over its own affairs under the principle of "one country, two systems." That's allowed the territory to carry on with its own legal and financial system and civil liberties such as freedom of speech.

But the restrictions on candidates appear to reflect President Xi Jinping's concerns that a genuine election could erode party control over the territory that it exercises through loyal political and business elites. Since taking office 18 months ago, Xi has overseen a notable chilling of the mainland's political atmosphere as he bolsters his personal power and eliminates potential challenges to Communist Party rule.

"Xi seems comfortable about Hong Kong only when the current rule-through-the-elite approach works," said Yu Maochun, an expert on Chinese politics at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Yu said the crisis is only likely to worsen since the deeply conservative Xi lacks the foresight and imagination to find a compromise with the pro-democracy camp.

The battle over electoral reforms has divided the city, with business groups and tycoons warning that Occupy Central's protest threatens to destabilize the city while many young people upset over widening inequality have backed the democracy activists.□



Eyeing China, Japan seeking record budget for defense

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Defense Ministry on Friday requested money for F-35 stealth fighter jets as part of its biggest-ever budget to bolster its ability to defend remote southern islands, including ones also claimed by an increasingly assertive China.

Plans to buy P-1 surveillance aircraft and "Global Hawk" drones, as well as an Aegis radar-equipped destroyer, are also part of the 5 trillion yen (\$48 billion) budget for the year beginning in April 2015, a 3.5 percent increase from the current year.

The budget reflects a new defense strategy and guidelines released in December as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pushes to give the military a greater role. Tensions with China have risen over a cluster of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea claimed by both countries.

To allow Japan a more assertive military posture, Abe's Cabinet in July approved a reinterpretation of the country's U.S.-drafted war-renouncing constitution so that the country can defend American and other foreign troops under attack. The step has split public opinion because of continuing sensitivity over Japan's militaristic past.

Twenty P-1 aircraft would cost 380 billion yen (\$3.6 billion) and a new destroyer 162 billion yen (\$1.6 billion). □

Zimbabwe:

First Lady roils political scene with her entry

FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — She has expensive tastes, owns a lot of land in Zimbabwe and is now entering politics, a move that is roiling this southern African nation that has known only one leader since independence: President Robert Mugabe, who is 90 years old.

The newcomer is Mugabe's 49-year-old wife Grace, who accepted a nomination last month to lead the ruling party's women's wing, triggering accusations that Mugabe aims to set a political dynasty in place. Her nomination has already caused infighting in the ZANU-PF ruling party, with some claiming they've been intimidated. The ZANU-PF Women's League said they hope Mrs. Mugabe can advance women's issues and help heal factionalism because she has "the president's ear."

But, like her husband, Mrs. Mugabe has a knack for giving speeches with fiery and hostile language.

In July, during her acceptance speech for the ZANU-PF post, she all but threatened the deputy justice minister and parliament member Fortune Chasi who, she said, has frustrated her efforts to acquire more land and a conservancy near her farm that is an animal sanctuary with gold reserves, where some villagers now live and pan for gold.

"I might have a small fist but when it comes to fighting I will put stones inside to

enlarge it, or even put on gloves to make it bigger. Do not doubt my capabilities," Mrs. Mugabe told thousands of women who were bussed from across the country to her farm in the Mazowe area northwest of Harare.

be 94 by then. Politicians have been jockeying for position to succeed him. Once a secretary in Mugabe's office, Mrs. Mugabe rose to prominence after news broke that she had a child with Mugabe while his first

wanted children.

After a Catholic wedding in 1996, Mrs. Mugabe made headlines for alleged expensive shopping trips, a fiery temper and the acquisition of huge tracts of land under Mugabe's controversial land reform program. The couple has three children, and Mrs. Mugabe has another son from an earlier marriage to a retired air force officer. She joined Mugabe on the political campaign trail in 2008 after he lost the first round of voting to opposition leader and main rival Morgan Tsvangirai. Mugabe won the subsequent runoff. Last year during the election campaign she attracted attention for comments such as describing Tsvangirai as ugly. Rival factions have recently begun openly attacking each other's credentials.

Vice President Joice Mujuru and Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa — both veterans of the country's 1970s liberation war — have been long-time front runners to replace Mugabe. A member of the ZANU-PF Youth League from Harare lodged a police report over the weekend, alleging he had been assaulted by fellow party members for backing Mrs. Mugabe. On Monday, Mugabe's close nephew and ZANU-PF politician Patrick Zhuwawo claimed there was a plot to "push" Mrs. Mugabe from Harare by disgruntled party members who want to "relegate the First Family to the Zvimba (Mugabe's home village)". □



Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe, left, and his wife, Grace, right, arrive for the inauguration ceremony for President Jacob Zuma, in Pretoria, South Africa. She has expensive tastes, owns a lot of land in Zimbabwe and is now entering politics, a move that is roiling this southern African nation that has known only one leader since independence: President Robert Mugabe, who is 90 years old. The newcomer is Mugabe's 49-year-old wife Grace, who accepted a nomination last month to lead the ruling party's women's wing, triggering accusations that Mugabe aims to set a political dynasty in place.

(AP Photo/Ihsaan Haffejee, Pool)

Mugabe, who has ruled since 1980 and won reelection in a disputed poll in July 2013, has already accepted a proposal by the women's wing to be the party's candidate for the 2018 election. He will

wife, Sally, lay bedridden due to a kidney ailment. Sally, a Ghanaian, died in 1992 from kidney failure. Mugabe has since said Sally knew and approved of Mrs. Mugabe since they were childless and he

BRIC wall: Brazil's economy slips into a recession

BRAD BROOKS

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Brazil's formerly high-flying economy, once the darling of emerging markets, has fallen into recession, according to government data released Friday, as a legion of newly minted middle class citizens tightened their belts and halted a credit-driven spending spree.

The government's statistics bureau reported that gross domestic product dropped 0.6 percent in the second quarter, in large part because of soft consumer spending. First-quarter results also were revised downward from 0.2 percent growth to a 0.2 percent drop, showing a two-quarter slide that most economists use to define a recession.

Analysts said the economy also suffered because investors are holding off, waiting to see how the October presidential election changes the economic winds.

Even the World Cup may have played a part



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff who is running for reelection with the Workers Party (PT) carries a food tray as she makes a campaign stop at a popular restaurant in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2014. Brazil has slipped into recession, with government figures released Friday, Aug. 29, 2014 showing gross domestic product contracting for a second consecutive quarter. Brazil last experienced a recession between October 2008 and February 2009.

(AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

because workers took many days off, contributing to limp industrial output.

But the heart of the problem may be a crisis for the government's model of consumption-led growth.

"Of course I'm spending a

lot less!" said Maria Sousa, a 25-year-old doing some window shopping but no buying at a mall in Rio de Janeiro. "I'm feeling less confident about my financial situation and I'm thinking more about trying

to save than spend."

London-based Capital Economics wrote in a research note Friday that "it is consumption that has been the key driver of growth since the 2009

global financial crisis. But consumers are now struggling, in part because household balance sheets have become stretched following a decade-long credit boom."

After blistering 7.5 percent growth in 2010, Brazil's economy has just limped along.

The long, slow slide means there aren't any regional shocks expected from the official drop into recession, but it still darkens the horizon for Brazil's neighbors, many of whom send a large percentage of their exports into the nation.

Argentina, whose economy is in recession and where citizens face inflation of 40 percent, may be hurt the most. About one-fifth of Argentina's exports flow into Brazil, but the amount Brazilians buy is forecast to shrink.

"It's another headwind for Argentina, at exactly the wrong time," said Neil Shearing, chief emerging markets economist at Capital Economics.

Mexico authorities stage midnight raid of migrants

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

SAN RAMON, Mexico (AP) —

The lumbering freight train known as "The Beast," a key part of the route for migrants heading north to the United States, rolled to an abrupt, unscheduled stop in the black of midnight.

Mexican federal police and immigration agents had waited silently in the brush alongside for at least hour, visible only by the glint of their powerful flashlights. As the train stopped, the area was suddenly flooded with spotlights as agents pounced from both sides of the track, scaling ladders to the tops of the freight cars and shouting: "Federal police! Give up! You're surrounded! Come down carefully!"

About a dozen men, some literally spitting with anger and desperation, were firmly led off the track,

an agent's hand on the back of their necks, and taken to waiting vans for processing and deportation. Agents helped a lone female migrant clambering over a coupling between cars to reach their van, telling her "Walk carefully, don't fall." "Don't touch me," she snarled.

The scene early Friday would have been unheard of in Mexico during the decades in which Central American migrants were allowed to freely hop freight trains to reach the U.S. border.

But the raid is part of a crackdown that has sharply reduced the number of women and children trying to make their way to the United States, where they turn themselves into the U.S. Border Patrol — an exodus that caused what U.S. leaders call a crisis at the border.



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The Sweetest Rewards Are At the Trop Club & Casino!

EAGLE BEACH - The Trop Club and Casino, has been staging spectacular promotions this year to entertain slot and table players with many different holiday and sporting events. This time the casino came up with something sweet, asking slot Advantage Club members to earn 300 Points, and get a free pie.

The promotion in which players get a free pie with every 300 points they earn, is starting on September 1st, 2014, and will remain valid while supplies. The offer is available for five consecutive Mondays from 6pm- 10pm.

To make things even more interesting the pies vary. While always sweet, the pies vary in flavor. On the first Monday of the month, players will be rewarded with Apple Pies.

On Monday September 8, they will enjoy Black Berry Pies, on Monday September 15, Bread Pudding Pies, on Monday September 22,



Buttermilk Pies and last but not least, on Monday September 15, Key Lime Pies.

Guests must earn 300 points the day of the giveaway, and in addition to the pie they will get to keep their points, for redemption on another occasion. In order to keep most of the ca-

sino's members happy the pie giveaway is restricted to only one per Advantage Club member and the offer is valid while supplies last on the promotion day.

The Sweetest Rewards promotion starts next week, but the upcoming UFC 177 fight gives patron a great

excuse to visit the casino this weekend.

On Saturday, September 30th, DILLASHAW VS. BARÃO II will be aired. In May of 2014, TJ Dillashaw shocked the world when he ended the 35-fight unbeaten streak of Renan Barão and took his UFC bantamweight crown.

On Saturday, August 30, Barão gets his shot at revenge against Dillashaw in the five-round championship main event that headlines UFC 177 at the Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento, California. You may watch it here at the Trop Club and Casino! □



Kukoo Kunuku Serves Up Fun and Laughter in Aruba!



PALM BEACH - Born out of the dreams of a couple who escaped south for the winter and never left, Kukoo Kunuku is the place on Aruba to find great food and make fun memories with the people around you. Kukoo Kunuku offers party bus tours and other adventures that take guests on a

whirlwind tour of some of Aruba's best sites as well as fun places where they can relax and grab a drink. Kukoo Kunuku is staffed by an eclectic mix of valued employees as diverse and interesting as Aruba itself. Their motto speaks for itself and is echoed by the experiences of taking a tour with them-"The perfect way for

the old and the reckless and the young and the restless to spend an evening in Paradise." Aruba's latest dinner under the stars location, Casibari Grill, is now featured on the Kukoo Kunuku Dinner and Barhopping Tour. Kukoo Kunuku guests can now enjoy a great local BBQ meal with all the trimmings

before embarking on a fun barhopping and night-life adventure. The newly renovated Casibari, is now open to the public seven days a week serving delicious drinks and an exciting array of menu options. It is full of character with an atmosphere that can't be beat anywhere else on the island!

Take the opportunity to dance, drink, talk, and enjoy the music at Casibari Grill when you stop by on a Kukoo Kunuku tour the next time you are in Aruba. More information and reviews of Kukoo Kunuku can be found on TripAdvisor- it comes highly recommended from travelers all around the world! □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

Olihpiades and Leila Honored at the Aruba Beach Club!

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Olihpiades and Leila Sanchez were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after returning to Aruba for more than 20 years consecutive.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Aruba Beach Club.

Mrs. Sanchez commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other one and she always travel with the family. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the 'Happy Island,' the great weather, and friendly Aruban hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food.

On the pictures Mr. Croes from ATA together with Olihpiades and Leila and their families, and hotel Representative Aida at the Aruba Beach Club. □



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At the Alhambra Casino & Shops:

Enjoy Southern Comfort Food at The Hollywood Smokehouse!



EAGLE BEACH - The island's original smokehouse is enjoying their new location within the Alhambra Casino & Shops complex just off of Eagle Beach. Originally located in a historic building in San Nicolas owned and operated by the Bislick family since 1941, the closing of the refinery left owners Michael and Tina

Bislick opting to keep their in-demand southern cuisine available to their loyal followers on the weekends under a tent in various spots of the island. The 5-star Trip Advisor restaurant went on to win the most recent Battle of the Food Trucks, prompting the couple to open a full-fledge restaurant again. The soft opening

during the FIFA World Cup 2014 brought many football fans into the restaurant for much enjoyed afternoons of delicious food and drink, and they keep coming back in droves, now hooked on the sumptuous southern cuisine! The restaurant has been open full time since June 18th, and they continue to

enjoy a strong tourist and local clientele. The Hollywood Smokehouse menu includes hickory and apple wood smoked pulled pork, beef brisket, grouper, and burgers, as well

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NASCAR auto racing driver Tony Stewart reads a statement during a news conference at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga., Friday, Aug. 29, 2014.
Associated Press

Tony Stewart back at the track, looking to heal

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — Tony Stewart took his seat on the podium — unshaven, his eyes glassy — and unfolded a sheet of paper. His voice quivered as he read, pausing to maintain his composure as he described the death of a driver he hit as “one of the toughest tragedies I’ve ever had to deal with.” This was a far cry from the brash driver known around the track as “Smoke.” Ninety minutes later, he climbed into his No. 14 car and sped toward the high-banked oval at Atlanta Motor Speedway, drawing a cheer from the crowd gathered around his garage. He quickly got up to speed, turning laps of nearly 190 mph, a racer back in his element. Ready or not, Stewart is back on the track. Heartbroken but eager to heal, Stewart rejoined the race for the NASCAR Sprint Cup championship surrounded by those he considers a second family — his team, his crew, his rivals.

Continued on page 22

Sara outlasts Venus



Errani next faces qualifier Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, who stunned second-ranked Simona Halep 7-6 (6), 6-2. The 32-year-old Lucic-Baroni hadn't made a Grand Slam round of 16 since 1999, waylaid by injuries and financial struggles.

NL Capsules

Record-setting Petit leads Giants past Rockies 4-1

GIANTS 4, ROCKIES 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Yusmeiro Petit set a major league record when he retired his 46th batter in a row, and the Giants earned their third straight win.

Petit (4-3) got the first eight Colorado hitters, establishing the mark by striking out Charlie Culberson. That broke Mark Buehrle's record of 45 straight with the Chicago White Sox in 2009. Petit's streak covered eight games, six of them in relief. He also surpassed Jim Barr's NL record of 41 in a row with the Giants in 1972.

The sellout crowd of 41,017 at AT&T Park gave Petit a standing ovation after he fanned Culberson. The string ended two pitches later when the next batter, Rockies starter Jordan Lyles, doubled to left field. Charlie Blackmon followed with a single to drive in Colorado's only run.



San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Yusmeiro Petit throws against the Colorado Rockies in the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Petit, a 29-year-old journeyman from Venezuela, struck out nine in six innings. Santiago Casilla got three outs for his 12th save. Lyles (6-2) allowed three

runs and four hits in six innings.

BRAVES 6, METS 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta's Mike Minor took a two-hit shutout into the eighth in-

ning after hitting a double and single himself.

Minor (6-8) had an RBI single in the second for the game's first run, and then doubled and scored in the

eighth. Minor was perfect for four innings before Lucas Duda led off the fifth with a single that just barely touched the glove of leaping shortstop Andrelton Simmons. The Mets didn't have a runner in scoring position until Travis d'Arnaud opened the eighth with a double. Eric Campbell followed with an RBI single, finishing Minor.

Jonathon Niese (7-10) pitched into the eighth inning, when Atlanta scored twice for a 3-0 lead.

REDS 7, CUBS 2

CINCINNATI (AP) — Billy Hamilton stole his 51st base and Cincinnati swiped six in all. Zack Cozart and Todd Frazier each stole two bases, and Kristopher Negron added one more.

The Reds had six steals in the first four innings, using six hits and four walks to build a 6-0 lead against Jake Arrieta (7-5).

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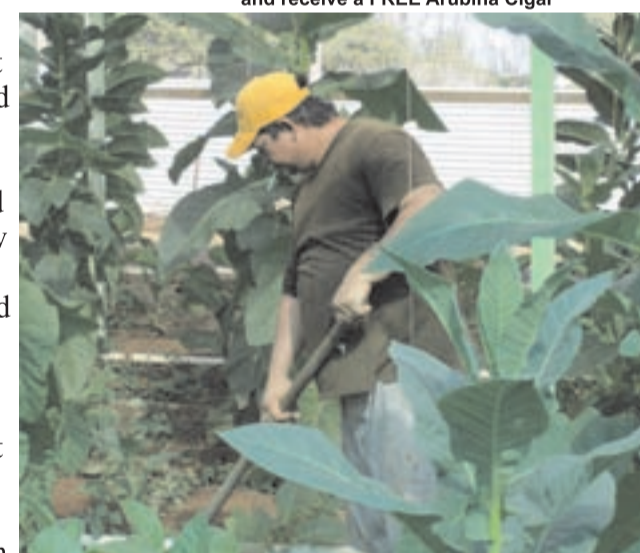
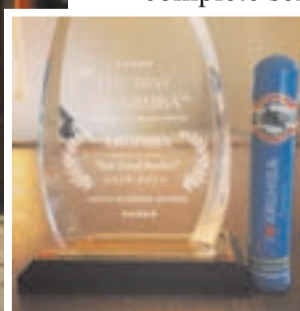


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi



AL Capsules

Angels beat A's 4-3 in opener of key series

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Howie Kendrick drove in Albert Pujols with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, and the Los Angeles Angels opened a two-game lead atop the major league standings with a 4-3 victory Thursday night over the Oakland Athletics, who finished the game under protest over a ninth-inning obstruction call.

Josh Hamilton had a 10th-inning single as the Angels won the opener in a four-game series between the AL West clubs who hold the majors' two best records. Pujols drew a leadoff walk from Ryan Cook (1-2) in the 10th, and Hamilton moved him to third with a bouncing hit up the middle.

Kendrick's long fly to right drove in the slow-footed Pujols, setting off a playoff-worthy celebration by the Angels, who have won 12 of 16.

Fernando Salas (5-0) pitched a perfect 10th for the Angels. He has retired 38 of his last 41 batters.

ORIOLES 5, RAYS 4

BALTIMORE (AP) — J.J. Hardy singled in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning, and Baltimore beat Tampa Bay to lengthen its lead in the AL East.

Steve Pearce homered for the Orioles, who took three of four from the sinking Rays. The victory, combined with the Yankees' loss to Detroit, put Baltimore seven games ahead of New York with 30 games remaining.

With the score 4-all in the seventh, Nelson Cruz doubled with two outs off Kirby Yates (0-2). After Chris Davis received an intentional walk, Hardy hit an opposite-field bloop to right that gave the Orioles their first lead.

Andrew Miller (4-5) pitched



Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols scores the winning run on a sacrifice fly hit by Howie Kendrick as Oakland Athletics catcher Geovany Soto looks on during the 10th inning of a baseball game, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

1 2-3 hitless innings and Zach Britton worked a perfect ninth for his 29th save. Evan Longoria homered and drove in two runs for the Rays.

TWINS 11, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Minnesota's Jordan Schafer tied a career high with four RBIs, including a two-run single in the 10th inning. Bruce Chen (2-4), the sixth pitcher for the AL Central-leading Royals, gave up five hits and walked two in the 10th.

Eduardo Nunez singled home the go-ahead run and Brian Dozier added a two-run double. Kurt Suzuki capped the burst with an RBI double for his third hit of the game.

Schafer had three hits and extended his hitting streak to eight games.

Anthony Swarzak (3-1) picked up the victory.

Kansas City's Alex Gordon homered off Ryan Pressly in the seventh, tying it at 5.

TIGERS 3, YANKEES 2

DETROIT (AP) — Alex Avila hit an RBI single with two out in the bottom of the ninth, lifting Detroit to the win.

A day after David Price gave up nine straight hits, the Tigers sent Kyle Lobstein to the mound for his first major league start. The rookie performed well, allowing one earned run in six innings.

Then Detroit's bullpen held off New York until the Ti-

gers scored in the ninth off Shawn Kelley (2-5). Victor Martinez led off with a double through a shifted infield, and then Kelley walked J.D.

Martinez before striking out Nick Castellanos and pinch-hitter Torii Hunter.

Avila followed with a drive to the wall in right. Kelley flung his glove to the ground as soon as Avila connected.

Phil Coke (2-2) got one out for the win.

INDIANS 3, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Cleveland's Carlos Carrasco pitched into the seventh inning, and Michael Bourn had two triples among his three hits.

Jason Kipnis and Michael

Brantley each singled in a run for the Indians, who have won four of five and 11 of 16 overall to remain in the hunt for an AL wild card.

Alexei Ramirez had two hits for the White Sox, and John Danks (9-9) pitched six solid innings.

Carrasco (6-4) improved to 3-0 with a sparkling 0.73 ERA in four starts since he returned to the rotation. He struck out seven in 6 2-3 innings while holding the White Sox to one run and four hits.

Chicago closed to 3-2 on Adam Dunn's RBI single in the eighth against Cody Allen, who struck out the next four batters for his 18th save in 19 attempts. □

Sara Errani outlasts Venus Williams at U.S. Open

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sara Errani wagged her finger and cupped her hand to her ear for the U.S. Open fans who tried to will Venus Williams to victory.

"I think I will remember forever that moment," Errani said.

Two points from defeat, the diminutive Italian rallied to force a third-set tiebreaker and outlasted Williams in a match that was both lopsided and tight.

Errani won 6-0, 0-6, 7-6 (5) in the third round Friday after Williams had a chance to serve out the match in the final set.

Williams twice came back from down a break in the third but was done in by too many unforced errors

— she made 52 in all. Trying to close out the match at 5-3, the 19th-seeded Williams had one of her eight double-faults.

The 13th-seeded Errani next faces qualifier Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, who stunned second-ranked Simona Halep 7-6 (6), 6-2. The 32-year-old Lucic-Baroni hadn't made a Grand Slam round of 16 since 1999, waylaid by injuries and financial struggles.

"I feel like a little kid, like this is the first time ever happening," Lucic-Baroni said. Errani, who wasn't thrilled with fans yelling out support for her opponent during her serves, won just 12 games in three previous meetings with Williams. But in the first set, Williams couldn't take advantage of her power,



Venus Williams, of the United States, reacts after a shot against Sara Errani, of Italy, during the third round of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 29, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

ena.

Sixth-seeded Angelique Kerber also was upset, losing 6-1, 7-5 to Swiss teen Belinda Bencic. Bencic, 17, is coached by Martina Hingis' mother, Melanie Molitor, and was coming off a third-round showing at Wimbledon.

"I started believing that I can play with these players," Bencic said.

Earlier, Peng Shuai again beat a seeded player to reach her second straight Grand Slam round of 16. Two days after upsetting fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska, Peng defeated 28th-seeded Roberta Vinci 6-4, 6-3.

The Chinese veteran had gone two years without making it past the second round at a major tournament before her Wimbledon run this summer. But she didn't meet any seeded players in the first three rounds there before losing to eventual champion Petra Kvitova in straight sets. This time, Peng, ranked 39th, will face 14th-seeded Lucie Safarova to try to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Peng said she'll need "more courage" in that match. She'll have the momentum of two straight sharp performances. With third-ranked Li Na sidelined by a knee injury, Peng's success is giving the fans in China something to cheer. "I don't know how it's on Sunday," she said. "I hope I will be same."

The 31-year-old Vinci had made the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open the past two years, but lost in the opening round at the first three major tournaments of 2014. Ninth-seeded Jelena Jankovic advanced by routing Johanna Larsson 6-1, 6-0. The 96th-ranked Larsson had upset Sloane Stephens in the second round.

Half of the top eight seeds are now gone on the women's side. Nothing like that among the men.

Eleventh-seeded Ernests Gulbis became the first man in the top 20 to lose when he blew a two-set lead to Dominic Thiem. □

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Palmer opens with a 63 to lead in Boston

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NORTON, Mass. (AP) —

Ryan Palmer has felt all year that something special was going to happen. For now, he'll take his lowest round of the season.

Palmer took only 21 putts and made birdie on half of his holes Friday on the TPC Boston, giving him an 8-under 63 and a two-shot lead over Keegan Bradley after the opening round of the Deutsche Bank Championship.

"It was one of my best ones of the year, for sure," Palmer said.

He didn't miss a putt inside 15 feet and closed out his round with a pitching wedge to 18 feet, making the downhill putt for his ninth birdie.

Bradley matched his low round of the season, though what meant more was the timing. This is the final week before U.S. captain Tom Watson decides which three players he will pick to fill out his Ryder Cup team. Bradley always seemed like a logical choice, though he wants to leave nothing to chance.

He played bogey-free in a gentle breeze, and it was just the start he needed.

"I'm not going to sit up here and say any clichés that I'm not thinking about the Ryder Cup or any of that," Bradley said. "I am



Palmer watches his tee shot on the third hole during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., Friday, Aug. 29, 2014.

Associated Press

very aware every second of the day that I'm being watched by the captain. And I'm just trying to embrace that be aware of it and enjoy it if I can."

Webb Simpson, who also needs a pick to return to the Ryder Cup, and Jason Day of Australia were among those at 66.

Jordan Spieth recovered from a double bogey to start his round and, with his entire family in tow, turned it around with four birdies and an eagle for a 67. Also at 67 was Ian Poulter, who seems certain to be a Ry-

der Cup pick for Europe on Tuesday considering how much damage he's done to the Americans in the competition. Poulter was thinking only about his golf, which hasn't been very good this year.

"I just want to play golf," Poulter said. "It's been a (bad) year, and I want to turn it around right now."

Rory McIlroy was brilliant at times and sloppy at other times in his round of 70.

Phil Mickelson had a 74. He wasn't sure what to expect and even Lefty had to be surprised by his card that

featured six pars, six birdies, four bogeys, a double bogey and a triple bogey.

"I said it would be feast or famine," Mickelson said. "I was hoping it would be Stableford. If it was Stableford, I'd be right in it."

Instead, he needs a good round Saturday to make sure he stays in the top 70 in the FedEx Cup to advance next week to the third play-off event in Denver.

For two weeks — especially this one — the FedEx Cup shares the stage for that other cup. So many players are thinking less about the chase for a \$10 million bonus, and more about a chance to play a tournament where they don't get paid at all.

Watson and European captain Paul McGinley announce their three picks Tuesday. This is the final qualifying week for Europe, though only the players competing in Italy this week can affect the standings.

Palmer finished No. 18 in the Ryder Cup standings. His name hasn't been mentioned as prominently as others bidding for captain's pick. But he looked plenty good Friday.

"I keep telling myself something is going to happen. I don't know where or

when," Palmer said. "My game has been in good shape. It was a matter of getting it all together."

His regular caddie, James Edmondson, didn't make the trip. Edmondson is close friends with Lance Bennett, who works for Matt Kuchar. Bennett's wife died of a seizure Tuesday in Dallas, and caddies and some players wore a black hat with an orange ribbon as a tribute to Angela Bennett. The couple has a 4-year-old daughter.

"When he said, 'I may need to stay home,' I said, 'Done. Don't worry about. We're just playing golf,'" Palmer said.

Bradley won all three of his matches with Mickelson in the last Ryder Cup at Medinah and is desperate to be on the American team that will try to win the cup back on Sept. 26-28 at Gleneagles in Scotland. And he's not shy about saying so.

"When I wake up, I'm thinking about it. When I'm on the course, I'm thinking about it," he said.

Bradley was never in big trouble. He drove it long and straight, and that goes a long way on the TPC Boston. Bradley played with Mickelson in three matches at Medinah in the last Ryder Cup, and they never lost. Bradley also played a practice round at Gleneagles with Watson before the British Open.

"I think if I go out and shoot good scores, yeah, I think I'm in good shape," Bradley said. "But there's so many great players that aren't on this team. I don't take anything for granted. I don't think I'm a lock by any means."

Froome finishes strong after Vuelta tumble

ALCAUDETE, Spain (AP) —

A series of nasty falls forced an injured Chris Froome to abandon his Tour de France title defense last month.

The British rider tumbled off this bike again on Friday, but this time he got back on and finished strong to cut into his rivals' times at the Spanish Vuelta.

Froome fell on the first climb of the hilly 169-kilometer (105-mile) ride, with televised images showing a

bloody cut on his right hip. After his team's car arrived to change his battered bike, Froome caught up with the peloton. He then used a burst of speed at the finish line to nip two seconds away from the other top riders.

"I'm feeling okay, but you definitely get the feeling that when bad luck comes, it comes more than once," Froome said. "But all things considered I'm feeling all right and I think I got off rel-

atively unscathed."

Froome is in fourth place now at 20 seconds behind race leader Alejandro Valverde after seven stages. Nairo Quintana is in second place at 15 seconds back, while Alberto Contador trails by 18 seconds.

"I'll definitely take that after a stage like today," Froome said. "At the end of the race you might need all the seconds you can to defend your place. I'll keep chipping away."



U.S. opens basketball worlds vs Finns and their fans

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

BILBAO, Spain (AP) — They are the biggest thing in Bilbao, backed by 8,000 fans — not to mention some Angry Birds — whose free-sending boosters are such believers they've already started lining up transportation to the second round. And if looking good in the stands meant as much as on the court when Finland received a debated wild card to the FIBA Basketball World Cup, that's not the players' problem. Their goal is to make the fans' trip worthwhile.

A strong performance against the U.S. would be a good start.

The Finns make their World Cup debut Saturday against the top-ranked Americans, who will feel like they're playing a road game inside the Bilbao Exhibition Center.

"We're here to fight and obviously it's a pretty big mountain to climb Saturday, but we just try to face one situation at a time and



U.S. Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski yells at a referee during the first half of an exhibition game between the US and Brazilian national teams Saturday, Aug. 16, 2014, in Chicago

Associated Press

hope after 40 minutes that we get a good game out of it," Finland veteran and former NBA player Hanno Mottola said.

For the Americans, it's step one of an expected lengthy march to Madrid for the gold-medal game, a chance for a team not yet in top form to keep getting better.

For Finland, it's something closer to the Super Bowl. Finnish officials expect their

fans to fill perhaps half of the 16,261-seat arena, with thousands more possibly coming to this Basque city. Supporters chartered more than 40 planes from Finland and aren't stopping there, looking into renting a train to take them to Barcelona if Finland advances to the knockout round.

Finland finished ninth in last summer's European championship, failing to qualify automatically for the World

Cup. But basketball's governing body made the 39th-ranked Finnish the lowest-ranked team ever to receive a wild card to its world championship, taking note not only of the team's improving performance but also the "Wolf-pack's" fan and financial backing.

Before the wild cards were awarded in February, Finnish company Rovio, maker of the popular Angry Birds games, had agreed to provide advertising for FIBA if Finland was selected. Finland also has support of Microsoft, whose name is on their practice jerseys, but Mottola disputes that his team is here simply for economic reasons.

"If people use that lame excuse of Angry Birds, Rovio, I don't see Rovio here anywhere," he said.

"Obviously, if we've got some big, big companies in Finland like Nokia and Microsoft and Rovio, if they're willing to help Finnish athletes and teams, who wouldn't take that help?

But I don't think it's a corporate decision. And also, I mean, who else brings in 8,000 fans?"

The top seven finishers in the European championship qualified automatically, leaving Finland next in line among last year's finishers from Europe once Italy withdrew from the wild card bidding.

The other wild cards went to Greece, Turkey and Brazil, all ranked in the world's top 10.

"I think we fulfilled every category that FIBA wanted. So I mean, if you show me a better team in the last three years, then fine, but obviously FIBA felt that we bring a lot of excitement here," Mottola added.

"If I would choose a way how to get qualifications, I wouldn't have wild cards, but that's not our problem. I know there's been a lot of talk, we were right there from the beginning. I don't think there's a question that we definitely belong here because of our basketball success."

TONY STEWART Continued from page 17

He missed the last three races, going into seclusion after the sprint car he was driving struck and killed 20-year-old Kevin Ward Jr., who had stepped on the track to confront him during a race.

He'll get back to work as an investigation continues in upstate New York. Authorities said Friday that the probe into the cause of the crash will last at least another two weeks. No decision has been made about whether Stewart will face charges.

"This is something that will definitely affect my life forever," Stewart said. "This is a sadness and a pain I hope no one has to experience in their life. That being said, I know that the pain and mourning that Kevin Ward's family and friends are experiencing is something that I can't possibly imagine."

He mentioned Ward's parents and three sisters by

name, saying he wanted them "to know that every day I'm thinking about them and praying for them."

Stewart took no questions about Ward's death because of the ongoing investigation, but said he wasn't sure if he had the emotional strength to answer them anyway. But his timid, halting delivery presented a much different side to a racer whose infamous temper has sparked clashes with the media and fellow drivers.

It was business as usual when Stewart switched to his racing suit. He signed autographs. He talked with his crew about the car's setup. He chatted up Kurt Busch.

During a 90-minute practice, Stewart posted a top lap of 189.642 mph — 10th-fastest among the 44 drivers attempting to qualify, quickly stamping himself as a contender in Sunday night's race.

If Stewart should win this event, or next week's race at Richmond, he would

qualify for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. While NASCAR requires its drivers to compete in every

event to make the play-off, Stewart was granted a waiver that is normally applied to a driver who misses



Sprint Cup Series driver Tony Stewart (14) climbs into his car as he prepares to qualify for Sunday's Oral BUSA 500 NASCAR auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway Friday, Aug. 29, 2014, in Hampton, Ga.

Associated Press

a race for medical reasons. Mike Helton, president of the governing body, said NASCAR made the decision after consulting with third-party experts who "were relevant under these circumstances." He would not elaborate.

"We want to join everybody in racing in welcoming Tony back," Helton said. "He's a great asset to NASCAR. He's a great champion, a great participant in our sport."

There was no word from Ward's family on Stewart's return. A woman who answered Friday at the home of Kevin Ward Sr. said the family would not be commenting.

During an Aug. 9 sprint-car event in upstate New York, Stewart and Ward's cars bumped while racing into a turn, sending Ward's car spinning. Ward climbed from his wrecked machine and wandered onto a darkened track in a black racing suit, wanting to make his displeasure known to the three-time NASCAR champion.

Google building fleet of package-delivering drones

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google's secretive research laboratory is trying to build a fleet of drones designed to bypass earthbound traffic so packages can be delivered to people more quickly.

The ambitious program announced Thursday escalates Google's technological arms race with rival Amazon.com Inc., which also is experimenting with self-flying vehicles to carry merchandise bought by customers of its online store. Amazon is mounting its own challenges to Google in online video, digital advertising and mobile computing in a battle that also involves Apple Inc.

Google Inc. calls its foray into drones "Project Wing." Although Google expects it to take several more years before its fleet of drones is fully operational, the company says test flights in Australia delivered a first aid kit, candy bars, dog treats and water to two farmers after traveling a distance of roughly one kilometer, or just over a half mile, two weeks ago.

Google's video of the test

flight, set to the strains of the 1969 song "Spirit In The Sky," can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRTNvWcx9Oo>. Besides perfecting their aerial technology, Google and Amazon still need to gain government approval to fly commercial drones in many countries, including the U.S. Amazon last month asked the Federal Aviation Administration for permission to expand its drone testing. The FAA currently allows hobbyists and model aircraft makers to fly drones, but commercial use is mostly banned. Project Wing is the latest venture to emerge from Google's "X" lab, which has also been working on self-driving cars as well as other far-flung innovations that company CEO Larry Page likens to "moonshots" that push the technological envelope.

The lab's other handiwork includes Internet-connected eyewear called Google Glass, Internet-beaming balloons called Project Loon and a high-tech contact lens that monitors glucose levels in diabetics. Google says it is striving to improve society through



This undated image provided by Google shows a Project Wing drone vehicle during delivery. Google's secretive research laboratory is trying to build a fleet of drones designed to bypass earthbound traffic so packages can be delivered to people more quickly.

Associated Press

the X's lab's research, but the Glass device has faced criticism from privacy watchdogs leery of the product's ability to secretly record video and take pictures.

Investors also have periodically expressed frustration with the amount of money that Google has

been pouring into the X lab without any guarantee the products will ever pay off. A team led by Massachusetts Institute of Technology aeronautics professor Nick Roy already has been working on Project Wing for two years, according to Google.

The Mountain View, Cali-

fornia, company didn't disclose how much the project has cost.

Drones clearly could help Google expand an existing service that delivers goods purchased online on the day that they were ordered. Google so far is offering the same-day delivery service by automobiles in parts of the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles and New York.

"Self-flying vehicles could open up entirely new approaches to moving goods, including options that are cheaper, faster, less wasteful and more environmentally sensitive than what's possible today," Google said in a pamphlet outlining Project Wing.

Google, though, seems to see its drones as something more than another step in e-commerce delivery. The aerial vehicles also could make it easier for people to share certain items, such as a power drill, that they may only need periodically and carry emergency supplies to areas damaged by earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural catastrophes, according to Google's Project Wing pamphlet.

Apple to unveil next products at Sept. 9 event

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple's latest product launch will be in a setting that holds a special place in its history, signaling how big this event is for the company.

The Sept. 9 launch, which is expected to feature a larger iPhone and possibly a computerized watch, will be in the same Silicon Valley venue where Apple's late co-founder, Steve Jobs, took the wraps off the original Mac computer 30 years ago. That machine was hailed as a major breakthrough that helped bring personal computing to the masses.

These events have be-

come an annual rite since the 2007 release of the iPhone, but this year's may be the most highly anticipated since the iPad came out in 2010.

A "smartwatch" or other wearable technology would mark the company's first foray into a new product category since the iPad came out.

True to its secretive nature, Apple Inc. isn't giving any clues about what's on the Sept. 9 agenda. "Wish we could say more," Apple said in a succinct white invitation mailed Thursday to reporters and others.

The company scheduled the event at an auditorium about 3 miles from its Cupertino, California, headquarters. It seats about

2,300 people, a far larger capacity than the places that Apple usually uses to show off its new products. Apple watchers expect an iPhone with a larger screen than the 4-inch display on the previous two generations of the device. The iPhone 6 is expected to feature a 4.7-inch screen to make it more competitive with larger smartphones made by Samsung Electronics and other rivals relying on Google Inc.'s free Android software. There also has been speculation that Apple may release another iPhone model with a 5.5-inch screen.

A bigger-screen iPhone could unleash a surge of sales among Apple fans who own iPhones with



In a Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, file photo, a person stands near the Apple logo at the company's store in Grand Central Terminal, in New York.

Associated Press

smaller displays. Some analysts think Apple could sell at least 70 million units of the iPhone 6 within the first few months after the device hits the market.

Although the iPhone is Apple's biggest moneymaker, much of the intrigue around this year's event surrounds the possibility that the company may release a long-awaited smartwatch

that could help monitor people's health and serve as control center for Internet-connected appliances and electronics in the home.

Apple CEO Tim Cook has indicated that he is intrigued with wearable technology devices, but hasn't provided any concrete clues about what the company is working on.

US consumer sentiment gains a bit in August

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer sentiment ticked up in August, driven by greater optimism about jobs, rising incomes, and increasing wealth. Yet the increase largely occurred among higher-income groups.

The University of Michigan said Friday its index of consumer sentiment rose to 82.5 from 81.8 in July. The August level is only slightly higher than it was a year ago.

Consumers have sent

mixed signals in recent months. The Michigan index has fluctuated between 80 and 82.5 since December. But a measure of consumer confidence by the Conference Board rose this month to nearly a seven-year high.

And yet Americans cut back their spending in July, according to a government report Friday. Consumer spending slipped 0.1 percent last month, the first drop since January. The decline was driven by a drop in spending on autos, which took a breather after

several months of strong sales. Nearly 60 percent of households in the top third of income earners say they are financially better off this month, the Michigan survey found, compared with only 36 percent in the bottom two-thirds. And nearly a quarter of households in the top third said they were wealthier, likely due to stock market gains, compared with just 2 percent in the bottom two-thirds.

"The stability in consumer expectations during the past nine months has helped to insulate the

economy from much larger swings in business investments," said Richard Curtin, an economist at the University of Michigan and director of the survey. "At the same time, the problem is that confidence has been unable to rise above those modestly positive levels." Curtin blamed the sluggishness of wage growth, which has barely kept up with inflation since the recession ended more than five years ago. That "has prevented the reestablishment of a more broadly based optimism," he said. □

Chinese web rivals challenge Alibaba firm

JOE McDONALD

AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's biggest property developer, Wanda Group, and Internet giants Baidu and Tencent unveiled a new e-commerce venture Friday in a challenge to industry leader Alibaba Group ahead of its U.S. stock offering. The three companies said they will integrate online and offline selling, with e-commerce services in Wanda's 107 shopping malls, as well as its hotels and resorts. They said they would invest 5 billion yuan (\$814 million) to start.

The venture adds to competition for Alibaba, whose Taobao, Tmall and other platforms account for some 80 percent of Chinese online commerce. The company is preparing for a U.S. initial public offering that analysts say might value it between \$150 billion and \$200 billion.

The new venture will develop services including online finance, the owners said. That could pose a challenge to Alibaba's popular banking service, Yu'e Bao.

China is the world's most populous Internet market, with more than 600 million people online. The consulting firm McKinsey has said online shopping might triple from 2011 levels to \$400 billion a year by 2015.

Wanda will own 70 percent of the new venture, the Wanda E-Commerce Co. Baidu Inc., operator of China's most popular search engine, and Tencent Holdings Ltd., which operates games and the popular WeChat instant message service, each will hold 15 percent.

The development of such online-to-offline, or O2O, models is "an inevitable trend" in e-commerce, said the CEO of Wanda E-Commerce, Dong Ce, in a statement. He said the joint resources of the three owners should make the company the biggest of its kind. Tencent also owns a stake in JD.com, China's second-largest e-commerce company. □

Stocks end higher following strong August run

-Editor's Note: U.S. financial markets will be closed Monday for Labor Day.

Six months of solid job gains, strong company earnings and a bevy of

underlying tone," said Mike Levine, portfolio manager of Oppenheimer Equity In-

slowled in July.

Traders also had their eye on the conflict in Ukraine, as a group of European Union foreign ministers accused Russia of invading the eastern region of the country and said Moscow should be punished with more economic sanctions. The markets began to recoup some losses by mid-morning, however, when a gauge of consumer sentiment indicated greater optimism in August, particularly among higher-income groups. Some better-than-expected company earnings also lifted stocks. Overall, the indexes wavered between small gains and losses throughout the afternoon.

"We're seeing a listless, pre-holiday market," said Drew Wilson, an investment analyst at Fenimore Asset Management.

The S&P 500 index finished up 6.63 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,003.37.

The S&P 500 closed above 2,000 for the first time on Tuesday and has gained 8.4 percent this year.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 18.88 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,098.45.

The Nasdaq composite added 22.58 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,580.27.

Stocks rose broadly, with all 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index higher for the day, led by utilities. The gains marked the index's best August since 2000. □



John Bishop, center, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Standard & Poor's 500 index delivered its fourth record high in five days Friday, ending with the biggest monthly gain since February.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

The Standard & Poor's 500 index delivered its fourth record high in five days Friday, ending with the biggest monthly gain since February.

The milestone-crushing run capped a week when the S&P eclipsed the 2,000-point mark for the first time. And the index ended August with a gain of 3.7 percent.

corporate deal news contributed to the rally, part of a bull market that's been rumbling on for more than five years.

The market appeared ready for a correction at the end of July, but the downturn didn't last long. For most of August, stocks have managed to shake off geopolitical conflicts from Ukraine to Gaza and Iraq.

"The market has a good

come Fund. "People feel like the economy is gaining some strength and the job market is getting better and corporate earnings should be pretty good."

Even in a quiet day of trading ahead of the Labor Day holiday, stocks eked out a gain.

The indexes opened higher, but eased soon after, as investors digested news that consumer spending fell and income growth

US bank earnings up 5.2 percent in April-June quarter

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. banks' earnings rose 5.2 percent in the April-June quarter from a year earlier, as banks reduced their expenses and lending marked its fastest pace since 2007.

The data issued this week by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. showed a robust picture as the banking industry continues to recover from the financial crisis that struck six years ago. The improving economy has brought greater demand for loans and stepped-up lending.

The FDIC reported that U.S. banks earned \$40.2 billion in the second quarter of this year, up from \$38.2 billion in the same period in 2013.

The number of banks on the FDIC's problem list fell to 354 in the second quarter, the lowest number in more than five years and down from 411 in the January-March period.

The FDIC said 57.5 percent of banks reported an increase in profit in the second quarter from a year earlier, and only 6.8 percent of banks were unprofitable — down from 8.4 percent a year earlier.

Banks reduced expenses by setting aside less in reserves to cover bad loans and making smaller payrolls, the report said.

FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg said the industry continued to improve in the latest quarter. However, he said, "challenges remain" for banks as their revenue is chipped away by lower income from mortgage business.

Total loan balances rose by \$178.5 billion, or 2.3 percent, from the first quarter, led by increases in commercial and industrial loans, home mortgages, credit card lending and auto loans. The 2.3 percent increase was the biggest quarterly rise since the fourth quarter of 2007, about a year before the financial crisis struck.

Demand for loans has grown as the economy has improved, new

jobs have been added over the past six months and business confidence has rebounded. Improved prospects for repayment of loans have prompted bankers to extend more credit.

"The improvement in loan balances has now been sustained over time," Gruenberg said, adding that the key will be for the trend to continue.

Community banks earned \$4.9 billion in the second quarter, up 3.5 percent from a year earlier.

Banks with assets exceeding \$10 billion continued to drive the bulk of the earnings growth in the May-June period. While they make up just 1.6 percent of U.S. banks, they accounted for about 82 percent of industry earnings.

Those banks include Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. Most of them have recovered with help from federal bailout money during the financial crisis and record-low borrowing rates.

JOSEPH PISANI

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest banks are small enough to fit in the palm of your hand.

Startups, such as Moven and Simple, offer banking that's designed specifically for smartphones, enabling users to track their spending on the go. Some things haven't changed. Like traditional banks, customers open a checking account, get a debit card and are able to make check deposits and pay their bills. Like many Internet banks before them, they have no maintenance or overdraft fees, there are no physical branches and depositing cash is a challenge. What makes Moven and Simple different is their apps. Every time a debit card is swiped at a store, a notification is sent to the phone letting the user know how much was spent and how much



An IMC specialist works at his post where Bank of America is traded on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. banks' earnings rose 5.2 percent in the April-June quarter from a year earlier, as banks reduced their expenses and lending marked its fastest pace since 2007.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Last year, the number of bank failures fell to 24. That is still more than normal. In a strong economy, an average of four or five banks close annually. But failures were down sharply from 51 in 2012, 92 in 2011 and 157 in 2010 — the most in one year since the height of the savings and loan crisis in

1992.

So far this year, 14 banks have failed. Twenty had been shuttered by this time last year.

The decline in bank failures has allowed the deposit insurance fund to strengthen. The fund, which turned from deficit to positive in the second quarter of 2011,

had a \$51.1 billion balance at the end of June, according to the FDIC. That compares with \$48.9 billion as of March 31.

The FDIC, created during the Great Depression to ensure bank deposits, monitors and examines the financial condition of U.S. banks. □

Startups offer banking for smartphone users



A woman uses her Samsung Galaxy S5 in Barcelona, Spain. The latest banks are small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. Startups, such as Moven and Simple, offer banking that's designed specifically for smartphones, enabling users to track their spending on the go.

(AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

money is left in the account.

"It makes them mindful of what they spend," says Alex Sion, president and co-founder of Moven, comparing it to fitness activity trackers. "What Fit-

bit and Nike Fuel does for your health, we do for your wallet." Both services automatically categorize purchases to provide an overview of what was spent on groceries, dining out or other areas over time. With

Simple, users can set goals, such as saving up for a new bike, and the app will show how much needs to be saved every day to meet that goal. Moven and Simple say most of their users are between the ages of 25 and 36, an age group that is often ignored by bigger banks who are more concerned with customers who have more money in their accounts. Portland, Oregon-based Simple, says it has more than 100,000 customers. Moven, which is based in New York, declined to say how many customers it has. The two companies make money from fees merchants pay every time customers swipe their debit card. The accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, but Moven and Simple don't actually hold the money that customers deposit. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



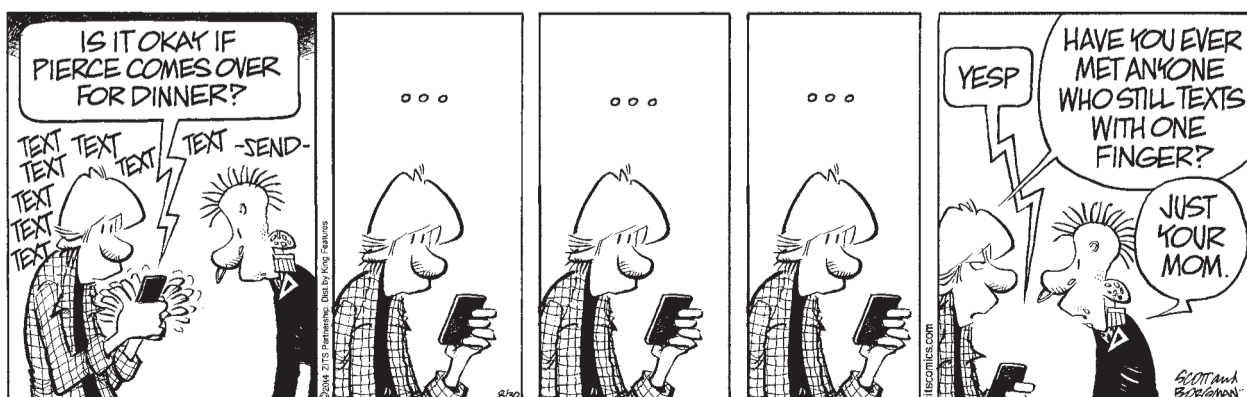
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6		2	1		5	
1						2	3
						8	
9				2			
5			1		7		9
				4			8
	4						
3		8					7
	7			5	6		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

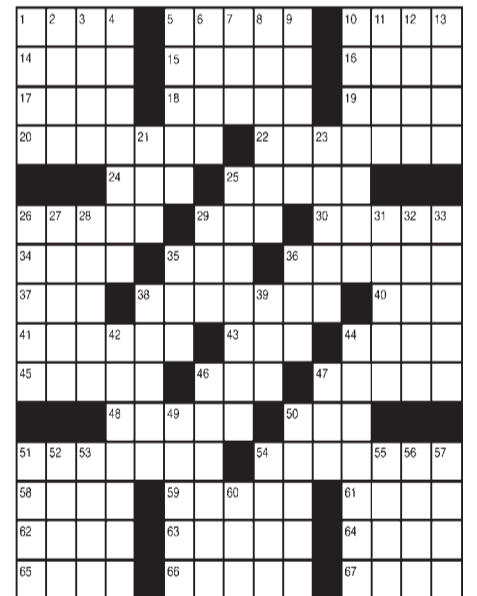
8	2	4	6	5	7	1	3	9
5	9	7	4	3	1	6	2	8
3	6	1	2	9	8	5	7	4
6	4	5	9	7	2	3	8	1
7	3	9	8	1	5	2	4	6
2	1	8	3	6	4	7	9	5
4	8	3	1	2	6	9	5	7
9	5	6	7	8	3	4	1	2
1	7	2	5	4	9	8	6	3

ACROSS

- Soap lather
- as a board
- Use a wet mop
- Acacia or alder
- Chaplain's title
- Cloak
- Got older
- Louis L. ; western writer
- Many of the works of Keats
- Fixes
- Kaffeeeklatsch
- Foot digit
- Neighbor of Oreg.
- "Bye, Pierre!"
- Org. for Ducks and Canadiens
- Works at a blackjack table
- Female red deer
- Buzzing insect
- Blush
- Sup
- Partial refunds to the buyer
- tai; cocktail
- Red blood cell deficiency
- Energy
- Group of actors
- Challenged
- Split soup
- Femur and tibia
- Happen again
- Patient man
- Skilled craftsman
- Turkey
- Count calories
- Actress Keaton
- Attract; draw
- Unit of land
- Schoolkid's composition
- Make a salary
- On the ; getting well
- Defrosts
- Orangey color

DOWN

- Night twinkler
- Encourage
- Profound



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/30/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

PASTA	SCAM	SHAG
ALTER	PACE	HALO
SPARS	OWED	ODIN
TORRENTS	ARRIVE	
ONES	CLATTER	
ENTRAP	HASTE	
LEO	LACES	SNAGS
MAUL	LOATH	SWAP
STRAW	ARSON	ELI
	CROSS	HARDEN
CURRENT	DUPE	
ONIONS	RAMPARTS	
ADDS	WEAR	IDAHO
CUES	EYRE	NEVER
HERE	REED	GREET

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8/30/14

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 39 Actress Leoni | 51 Actor West |
| 42 Deserved | 52 Uncle Ben's |
| 44 Deep fruit pie | 53 Gull's cousin |
| 46 Discipline | 54 Chew like a beaver |
| 47 Hope or Barker | 55 Hawaiian feast |
| 49 West Point student | 56 Blunders |
| 50 Baby kangaroos | 57 Landlord's due |
| | 60 Blind bat |

At heart of Syria fears, extremists returning home

KEN DILANIAN
BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The case of Mehdi Nemmouche haunts U.S. intelligence officials. Nemmouche is a Frenchman who authorities say spent 11 months fighting with the Islamic State group in Syria before returning to

rope.

However, there is broad agreement across intelligence and law enforcement agencies of the immediate threat from radicalized Europeans and Americans who could come home to conduct lone-wolf operations. Such plots are difficult to detect because they don't

ated with the Islamic State group who authorities say returned from the battlefield to carry out violence, and some scholars argue the danger is overstated. But nearly every senior national security official in the U.S. government — including the attorney general, FBI director, homeland security secretary and leaders of key intelligence and military agencies — has called foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq their top terrorism worry.

"While we have worked hard over the last year and a half to detect Westerners who have gone to Syria, no one knows for sure whether there are those who have gone there undetected," said John Cohen, who stepped down in July as the Homeland Security Department's counterterrorism coordinator.

Unlike al-Qaida militants in Pakistan and Yemen, American and European passport holders who have secretly gone to fight in Syria can travel freely if they have not been identified as terrorists. U.S. authorities are sifting through travel records and trying to identify the foreign fighters, but they won't see all of them. An American from San Diego, Douglas McArthur McCain, was killed this week in Syria, where, officials say, he was fighting with the Islamic State. The U.S. is investigating whether

a second American also was killed.

McCain is one of several Western Muslims over the last two years who proved themselves willing to kill or help them win new recruits. The names of many more remain secret in the files of U.S. intelligence agencies, but here are others that are public:

—Moner Mohammad Abusalha, an American who grew up a basketball fan in Vero Beach, Florida, killed 16 people and himself in a suicide bombing attack against Syrian government forces in May. U.S. officials say he was on their radar screen but acknowledge he traveled from Syria to the United States before the attack without detection. Had he attacked in the U.S. instead of Syria, it's unclear whether he would have been stopped.

—Two brothers from East London, Hamza Nawaz, 23, and Mohommod Nawaz, 30, pleaded guilty in May to attending a terrorist training camp in Syria. They were caught on the return trip home with ammunition. In an unrelated case, Mashudur Choudhury, 31, was also convicted in London of traveling to a terrorist camp in Syria.

—Three Norwegian residents were arrested in May and accused of having fought with the Islamic State group.



This image shows fighters of the Islamic State waving the group's flag from a damaged display of a government fighter jet following the battle for the Tabqa air base, in Raqqa, Syria.
(AP Photo/ Raqqa Media Center of the Islamic State group)

Europe to act out his rage. On May 24, prosecutors say, he methodically shot four people at the Jewish Museum in central Brussels. Three died instantly, one afterward. Nemmouche was arrested later, apparently by chance.

For U.S. and European counterterrorism officials, that 90-second spasm of violence is the kind of attack they fear from thousands of Europeans and up to 100 Americans who have gone to fight for extremist armies in Syria and now Iraq.

The Obama administration has offered a wide range of assessments of the threat to U.S. national security posed by the extremists who say they've established a caliphate, or Islamic state, in an area straddling eastern Syrian and northern and western Iraq, and whose actions include last week's beheading of American journalist James Foley. Some officials say the group is more dangerous than al-Qaida. Yet intelligence assessments say it currently couldn't pull off a complex, 9-11-style attack on the U.S. or Eu-

require large conspiracies of people whose emails or phone calls can be intercepted.

The 2013 Boston Marathon bombings were like that, carried out by radicalized American brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev acting on their own. So was the 2010 attempt to bomb New York's Times Square by Faisal Shahzad, who received training and direction in Pakistan but operated alone in the United States. On Friday, Britain raised its terror threat from "substantial" to "severe," citing a foreign fighter danger that made a terrorist attack "highly likely." The U.S. didn't elevate its national terrorist threat level, though White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the administration was closely monitoring the situation. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said Friday that U.S. authorities aren't aware of any "specific, credible" threats to the U.S. homeland from the group.

So far, Nemmouche is the only foreign fighter affili-

DOCTOR ON DUTY



Oranjestad
Dr. Dirszt
San Nicolas
Dr. Vis

EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

Oranjestad: Sta. Cruz Tel: 585-8028
San Nicolas: Aloe Tel: 584-4606

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

September 1
Monarch



Aruba Airport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
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Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002



Study: We travel with our own germs

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sorry, clean freaks. No matter how well you scrub your home, it's covered in bacteria from your own body. And if you pack up and move, new research shows, you'll rapidly transfer your unique microbial fingerprint to the doorknobs, countertops and floors in your new house, too.

In fact, researchers who studied seven families in Illinois, Washington and California could easily match up who lived where using their microscopic roommates.

Thursday's study is part of an effort to understand how the trillions of mostly beneficial bacteria that live in and on our bodies — what's called the human microbiome — interact with bugs in the environment to affect our health.

"We have so little information about where the microbes come from that shape our microbiome, whether it's for health or disease," said microbiologist Jack Gilbert of the Argonne National Laboratory and University of Chicago. Where do people spend most of their time? "It's the indoor environment. The best place to look at that was the home," said Gilbert, who led the Home Microbiome Project and included his own family.

Right at birth, babies start picking up microbes on the skin, in the nose, in the gut that eventually make up living communities that will share their bodies throughout life. Many of these bugs play critical roles in digestion, the immune system



In this undated photo provided by the Gilbert family shows Dylan Gilbert, 7, of Naperville, Ill., demonstrating how he helped collect samples of bacteria from his foot during a 2012 study. Dylan's father, microbiologist Jack Gilbert of Argonne National Laboratory, led the Home Microbiome Project that analyzed bacteria in seven homes around the country, including his own, and found the microbes that normally live in people's bodies quickly move onto their doorknobs, countertops and floors.

Associated Press

and other health-inducing factors. Others may make it easier to gain weight, or influence disease. What shapes the balance of good bugs and bad is a huge scientific question.

Hospital studies make clear that someone who already is sick can catch a new infection from pathogenic bacteria left behind by a previous patient.

In contrast, the new study examines healthy people, and it marks an important step: Beginning to show what's normal in a regular home, said Dr. Lisa Helbling Chadwick of the National Institutes of Health. That's a key question before scientists can explore how to possibly create healthier homes.

"You have to think about

the microbiome of your home as part of your home's immune system," said Chadwick, of NIH's National Institute of Envi-

ronmental Health Sciences, who wasn't involved with Gilbert's project. "Instead of relying on killing bugs to stop the spread of infection, maybe we need to cultivate better bugs."

For the study, Gilbert recruited seven households that included 15 adults, three children, three dogs and a cat. For six weeks, participants collected samples of the microscopic bugs living on and around them by swabbing the hands, feet, noses and paws of everyone in the household, plus doorknobs, light switches, floors and countertops.

Back in the laboratory, Gilbert's team identified the bugs by their DNA, and they reported Thursday in the journal *Science* that people substantially affect the microbial communities in their homes.

Different homes harbored markedly different bacterial populations, but they closely matched the microbiomes of their residents.

The big surprise: How quickly the bugs settled in. When three families moved —

one of them from a hotel room to a house — it took about a day for the microbes in their new homes to closely resemble those in the old ones.

"The speed at which that colonization happens was quite remarkable," Gilbert said.

Sure, there are some leftover bacteria from previous occupants, he said. But many bacteria die or go dormant after a while on a hard, air-conditioned surface. At the same time, the oil in your skin readily transfers your own bacteria to surfaces. That's not counting all those tiny flakes of dead skin that people constantly shed, microbe-filled dust that probably just blankets the bugs that were there first, Gilbert noted.

"It changed my perspective almost on hotel rooms," he added with a laugh.

In another home, someone went on a three-day trip, and that person's contribution to the usual household microbe mix dropped noticeably.

Shell files revised Arctic offshore drilling plan

DAN JOLING

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— Royal Dutch Shell PLC has filed a revised Arctic offshore drilling plan with federal regulators but says the company hasn't decided whether to return to waters off the coast of north-west Alaska in 2015.

The revised exploration plan submitted to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in Anchorage calls for two drilling vessels to operate simultaneously in the Chukchi Sea rather than one in the Chukchi and one in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska's north coast.

The presence of two vessels is required so one can drill a relief well in the event of damage from a blowout.

Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc.'s revised plan calls for the

return of the Noble Discoverer, which performed top hole work at the company's Burger prospect in 2012. The second drilling vessel planned for the Chukchi is the Polar Pioneer, owned by Transocean Ltd., said Shell Alaska spokesman Curtis Smith.

"Today's filing is not a final decision to drill next summer, but it does preserve the option," he said by email.

In 2012, Shell drilled pilot holes and dug mudline cellars in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. The company was not allowed to drill into oil-bearing deposits because required response equipment was not on hand. The company experienced problems in the challenging Arctic conditions, culminating with

the drill vessel Kulluk running aground off an island near Kodiak as it was being towed across the Gulf of Alaska in stormy weather.

Shell chose not to drill during the short open water drilling season in 2013 or 2014, and it faces regulatory hurdles if it wants to send its drill fleet north again.

Besides obtaining necessary permits, Smith said, there has to be a resolution to the legal cloud hanging over the 2008 Chukchi lease sale. A federal appeals court in January ruled that the federal government conducted a flawed environmental review before selling \$2.7 billion in Chukchi leases. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is conducting supplemental environmental work.



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Movie academy to honor Belafonte, Maureen O'Hara



In this July 20, 2014 file photo, singer and activist Harry Belafonte speaks during a memorial tribute concert for folk icon and civil rights activist Pete Seeger at Lincoln Center's Damrosch Park in New York.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Harry Belafonte and Maureen O'Hara are among those who will be honored by the motion picture academy's board of governors.

The academy said Thursday that Belafonte will receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the academy's sixth annual Governors Awards on Nov. 8 in Los Angeles.

Actor-singer Belafonte, 87, is being recognized for his dedication to shedding light on racism and inequality worldwide, the academy said.

Actress O'Hara, 94, whose films include "The Quiet Man," will join artist and animated filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki and screenwriter Jean-Claude Carrière in receiving honorary Academy Award statuettes for lifetime achievement. Miyazaki is the Oscar-winning creator of "Spirited Away."

Carrière's four Oscar nominations include one for "That Obscure Object of Desire," and he won for a live action short, "Heureux Anniversaire (Happy Anniversary)."

Chelsea Clinton quits as NBC News reporter

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Chelsea Clinton said Friday she is quitting her job as a reporter at NBC News, citing increased work at the Clinton Foundation and the imminent birth of her first child.

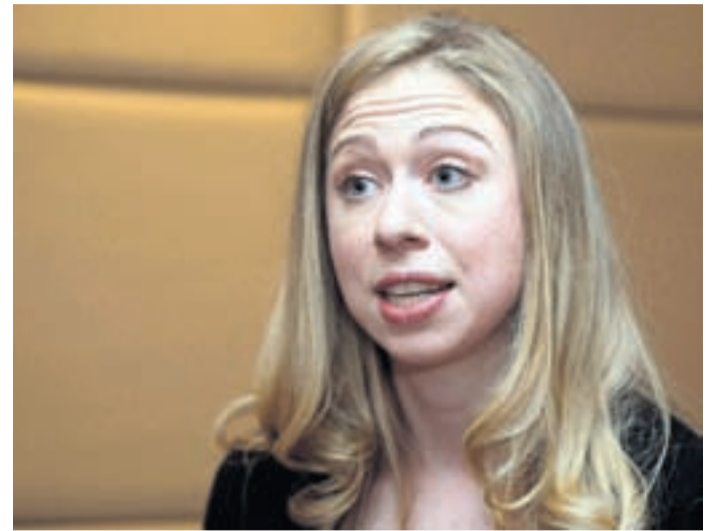
Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton's daughter had been working at the network since 2011, sporadically doing feature stories on people or organizations doing public-spirited work. Politico magazine reported earlier this year that NBC was paying her \$600,000 a year.

"I loved watching the 'Making a Difference' stories about remarkable people and organizations making a profound difference in our country and our world,"

Clinton said in a statement posted on her Facebook page. "I am grateful NBC gave me the opportunity to continue this important legacy."

She was initially hired to do stories for Brian Williams' "Rock Center" newsmagazine, but that program was canceled. Her work occasionally appeared on NBC's "Nightly News."

Two Clinton stories that



In this Tuesday, May 28, 2013, file photo, Chelsea Clinton, from the Clinton Foundation, speaks during an interview at the Women Deliver conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Associated Press

aired in January were on education programs targeting the underprivileged. She's done stories on a school program for jailed teenagers named after Maya Angelou,

an Arkansas tutoring program and a restaurant chain that donates leftover food to the needy. Her story on actor Jeff Bridges' work on childhood hunger aired Aug. 1, and another story about a school lunch program for poor children in New Mexico is scheduled to air this Sunday.

"Chelsea's storytelling inspired people across the country and showcased

the real power we have as individuals to make a difference in our communities," said Alex Wallace, senior vice president at NBC News.

Her exit removes some potential awkwardness for the network if her mother runs for president in 2016.

NBC made certain to keep Clinton off the air around the time her mother was making media appearances to promote a book, to avoid any appearance of conflict. NBC also received some criticism when stories about her salary appeared; the network didn't comment on the reports.

Daughter: Joan Rivers is in 'serious condition'

JAKE PEARSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Joan Rivers remained in serious condition in a New York City hospital Friday, one day after going into cardiac arrest at a doctor's office.

Melissa Rivers said in a statement Friday that her mother was "receiving the best treatment and care possible." She also thanked Rivers' fans and friends for their support.

"My mother would be so touched by the tributes and prayers that we have received from around the world," Melissa Rivers said. "Her condition remains seri-

ous ... We ask that you continue to keep her in your thoughts as we pray for her recovery." The Mount Sinai Hospital said it had no updates Friday. On Thursday, hospital spokesman Sid Dinsay confirmed that Rivers had been taken there that morning. New York City police officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly name Rivers, said she was taken to the hospital just after 9:30 a.m. Thursday. It was unclear why she was visiting the doctor's office.

The comedian with a half-century of show busi-

ness under her belt has spawned a reputation for often-snarky red carpet fashion commentary. A show she had scheduled Friday at the Count Basie Theatre in New Jersey, has been postponed.

An early and outspoken proponent of cosmetic surgery, Rivers' drastically altered her appearance over the years — and found plenty of material for jokes. ("I've had so much plastic surgery, when I die they will donate my body to Tupperware.")

The host of "Fashion Police" on E! network, Rivers also presides over an online talk



In this Jan. 19, 2012, file photo, Joan Rivers attends a screening of the Season 2 premiere of WE TV's "Joan & Melissa: Joan Knows Best?" in New York.

Associated Press

show, "In Bed With Joan" and co-stars with her daughter on the WEtv reality show, "Joan & Melissa: Joan Knows Best?"

Her latest book, "Diary of a Mad Diva," was released this summer. In 2009, Rivers emerged as the winner of NBC's "The Celebrity Apprentice." A documentary, "Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work," premiered in theaters in 2010.

The New York native originally entered show business with the dream of a theatrical career, but comedy became a way to pay the bills while she auditioned for acting roles.

Hip-hop moves as force for slain unarmed black man

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rappers are making their voices heard in the Missouri city where a white police officer killed an unarmed young black man, channeling hip-hop's earlier roots when the genre worked as a voice for the oppressed and spoke out against injustice.

"It's really important to see hip-hop's role of being some grown-ups and doing some really stand-up, grown-up stuff," Public Enemy's Chuck D, one of rap's most powerful voices, said in a recent interview. "These people have actually stood up ... and that has to be saluted."

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer said he's impressed with rappers such as J. Cole, who released a heartaching, tearful song called "Be Free" inspired by Michael Brown, the 18-year-old who was shot to death Aug. 9 in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, igniting weeks of protests. Others in rap also have lifted their voices: Talib Kweli, like J. Cole, marched in Ferguson and spoke out



In this June 21, 2013 file photo, Chuck D of the rap group Public Enemy performs on Day 1 of the Firefly Music Festival at The Woodlands, in Dover, Del.

Associated Press

about injustice; David Banner appeared on CNN; Nelly started a scholarship for teens in honor of Brown; and Lauryn Hill dedicated her song "Black Rage" — which uses some of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "My Favorite Things" — to the Ferguson community.

"When the dogs bite, when the beatings, when I'm feeling sad I simply remember all these kinds of things and then I don't feel so



In this April 29, 2013 file photo, American rapper Talib Kweli, who performs under the name Talib Kweli, poses for a portrait during an interview in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

bad," she sings.

The largest hip-hop gesture for Brown, who was an aspiring rapper, came Wednesday when the Game released the song "Don't Shoot," in which he's joined by all-stars like Diddy, Rick Ross and 2 Chainz, among others. Sales from the song will benefit the Mike Brown Memorial Fund on GoFundMe, which has raised nearly \$300,000 in two weeks.

"I wanted to do my part in bringing awareness to it, so that at the end of the day that I can sleep well knowing that I used my voice correctly," the Game said in an interview Thursday.

Though hip-hop has been criticized for glorifying sex and violence, its musicians have a history of standing up against perceived injustice, especially in the genre's early years, with songs like "Fight the Power" and "The Message."

A more recent example came after the death of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed 17-year-old who was killed by a Florida neighborhood watchman in 2012.

Last week, T.I. released the song "New National Anthem," which he wrote after the July 2013 acquittal of the watchman, George Zimmerman, who argued self-defense. T.I. says he hopes to start a dialogue between the community, city leaders and police.

"This is not to divide race, color, generation, region. This is not to incite or encourage people to go against to the police. This is to bring about change

by way of creating awareness of the current status in America in these inner city areas for our young black men and young black people," the rapper said in a recent interview.

Other black entertainers have spoken out including Kerry Washington, Jesse Williams and Spike Lee, who attended Brown's funeral on Monday. At a concert last week where he performed Marvin Gaye's seminal "What's Going On?" at the Hollywood Bowl, John Legend wore a shirt that said "don't shoot."

While a number of members of the rap community have come out in support of Ferguson — including Russell Simmons, Killer Mike, Young Jeezy and Wiz Khalifa — others have wondered if hip-hop's most prolific and popular stars will chime in, from Jay Z to Pharrell to Kanye West to Lil Wayne.

"I don't believe everyone has a role for this, and I also don't believe quantity takes over as quality. I think we have a quality combination in there," Chuck D said. □

Review: 'Bad Feminist' essays are sharp, funny

Bad

Feminist

Essays

Roxane

Gay

RASHA MADKOUR

Associated Press

Roxane Gay may call herself a bad feminist — she cops to loving pink and dancing to misogynist music — but she is a badass writer.

In her new collection of essays, "Bad Feminist," Gay argues that she needn't fit a mythologized image of a feminist in order to fight against institutional sexism, pay inequity, the cult of beauty, attacks on reproductive freedom and so on.

The essays range from the humorous — an account of her unwitting entry into the cutthroat world of competitive Scrabble — to the weighty issue of acknowledging

privilege: "You don't have to apologize for it. You need to understand the extent of your privilege, the consequences of your privilege, and remain aware that people who are different from you move through and experience the world in ways you might never know anything about."

Gay is as comfortable dissecting a Joan Didion novel as the reality TV show "Flavor of Love" with equal fluency and smarts.

She compares being a first-year professor to being a kid who gets to sit at the adult table on Thanksgiving for the first time.

She highlights gender inequality in the publishing industry and offers practical

solutions.

In an essay responding to the argument that the need for feminism is gone, Gay responds: "(L)ife has improved in measurable ways for women, but she is wrong in suggesting that better is good enough. Better is not good enough, and it's a shame that anyone would be willing to settle for so little."

Gay points out that women still earn 77 percent of what men earn, that only 18 percent of the members of Congress are women and that only 4 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are women.

A later essay further drives this point home. Gay pillories a New York Times article titled "Vicious Assault Shakes Texas Town" about the gang-rape of an 11-year-old girl. □

This photo provided by Harper Perennial shows the cover of the book, "Bad Feminist: Essays" (Harper Perennial), by Roxane Gay.

Associated Press

He Has a Dream



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - As he has grown weary of Washington, President Barack Obama has shed parts of his presidency, like drying petals falling off a rose.

He left the explaining and selling of his signature health care legislation to Bill Clinton. He outsourced Congress to Rahm Emanuel in the first term, and now doesn't bother to source it at all. He left schmoozing, as well as a spiraling Iraq, to Joe Biden. Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser, comes across as more than a messagemeister. As the president floats in the empyrean, Rhodes seems to make foreign policy even as he's spinning it.

But the one thing it was impossible to imagine, back in the giddy days of the 2009 inauguration, as Americans basked in their open-mindedness and pluralism, was that the first African-American president would outsource race. He saved his candidacy in 2008 after the "pastor disaster" with Jeremiah Wright by giving a daring speech asserting that racial reconciliation could never be achieved until racial anger, on both sides, was acknowledged. Half black, half white, a son of Kansas and Africa, he searchingly and sensitively explored America's ebony-ivory divide.

He dealt boldly and candidly with race in his memoirs, "Dreams From My Father." "In many parts of the South," he wrote, "my father could have been strung up from a tree for merely looking at my mother the wrong way; in the most sophisticated of Northern cities, the hostile stares, the whispers, might have driven a woman in my mother's predicament into a back-alley abortion - or at the very least to a distant convent that could arrange for adoption. Their very image together would have been considered lurid and perverse."

Now the professor in the Oval Office has spurned a crucial teachable moment.

He dispatched Eric Holder to Ferguson, and deputized Al Sharpton, detaching himself at the very moment when he could have helped move the country forward on an issue close to his heart. It's another perverse reflection of his ambivalent relationship to power.

He was willing to lasso the moon when his candidacy was on the line, so why not do the same at a pivotal moment for his presidency and race relations? Instead, he anoints a

self-promoting TV pundit with an incendiary record as "the White House's civil rights leader of choice," as The New York Times put it, vaulting Sharpton into "the country's most prominent voice on race relations." It seems oddly retrogressive to make Sharpton the official go-between with Ferguson's black community, given that his history has been one of fomenting racial divides, while Obama's has been one of soothing them.

The MSNBC host has gone from "The Bonfire of the Vanities" to White House Super Bowl parties. As a White House official told Politico's Glenn Thrush, who wrote on the 59-year-old provocateur's consultation with Valerie Jarrett on Ferguson: "There's a trust factor with The Rev from the Oval Office on down. He gets it, and he's got credibility in the community that nobody else has got."

Sharpton has also been such a force with New York's mayor, Bill de Blasio, in the furor over the chokehold death of a black Staten Island man that The New York Post declared The Rev the de facto police commissioner.

The White House and City Hall do not seem concerned about his \$4.7 million in outstanding debt and liens in federal and state tax records, reported by The Post.

Once civil rights leaders drew their power from their unimpeachable moral authority. Now, being a civil rights leader can be just another career move.

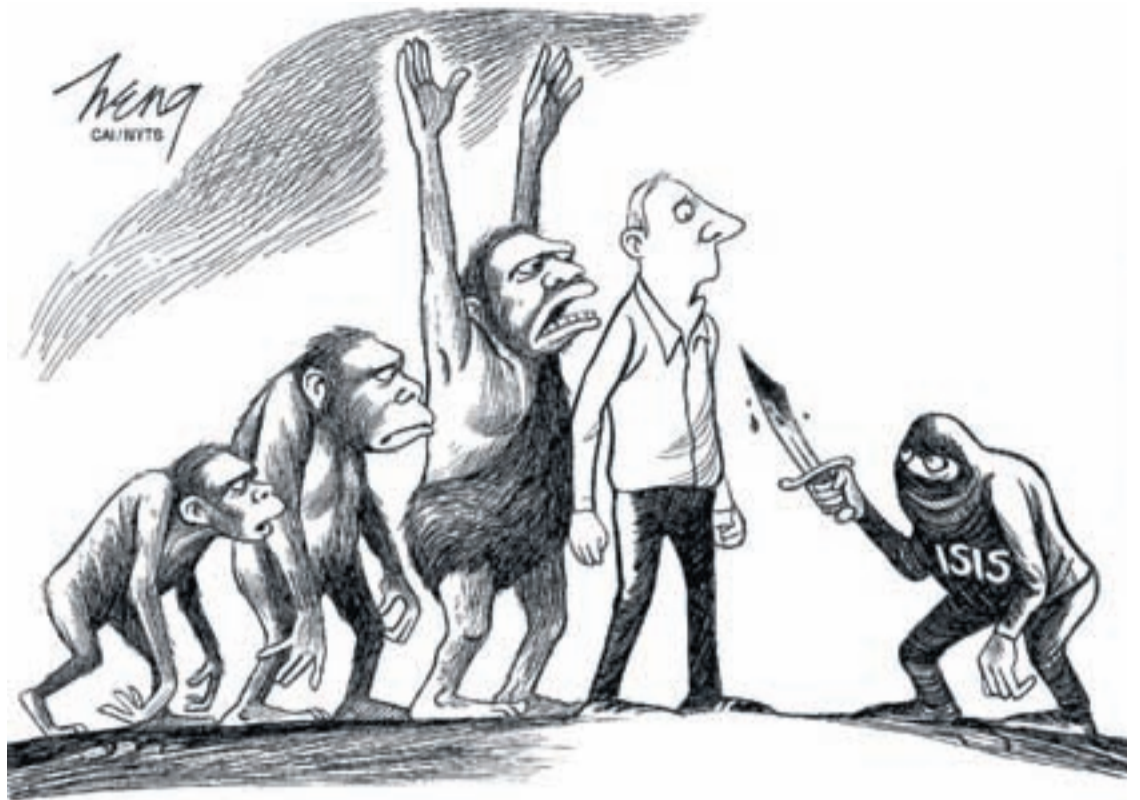
Thrush noted that Sharpton - "once such a pariah that Clinton administration officials rushed through their ribbon-cuttings in Harlem for fear he'd show up and force them to, gasp, shake his hand" - has evolved from agitator to insider since his demagoguing days when he falsely accused a white New York prosecutor and others of gang-raping a black teenager, Tawana Brawley, and sponsored protests against a clothing store owned by a white man in Harlem, after a black subtenant who sold records was threatened with eviction.

A deranged gunman burned down the store, leaving eight people dead.

Sharpton also whipped up anti-Semitic feelings during the Crown Heights riots in 1991, denouncing Jewish "diamond dealers" importing gems from South Africa after a Hasidic Jew ran a red light and killed a 7-year-old black child. Amid rioting, with some young black men shouting "Heil Hitler," a 29-year-old Hasidic Jew from Australia was stabbed to death by a black teenager. Now, Sharpton tells Thrush: "I've grown to appreciate different roles and different people, and I weigh words a little more now. I've learned how to measure what I say."

Obama has muzzled himself on race and made Sharpton his chosen instrument - two men joined in pragmatism at a moment when idealism is needed.

We can't expect the president to do everything. But we can expect him to do something. □



The Drinker's Manifesto



MARK BITTMAN

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Across my desk recently came a reissue of the 1964 classic "The Drinking Man's Diet," a cute little volume that maintains that if you drink a bit you'll lose weight. Counterintuitive, because one of the things we think we know about alcohol is that it provides truly empty calories, which generally speaking cause weight gain (see, for example, soda).

With seven calories per gram, alcohol is way more caloric than sugar and other carbs, all of which contain four, and less so than fat (nine), but those in alcohol are metabolized differently, and some studies have shown that moderate drinkers ingesting the same level of calories as non-drinkers (and heavy drinkers) may gain less weight over time. Moderate levels of alcohol may also protect against heart disease.

Life is complicated, and drinking for health is a lame rationalization, but drinking itself ... well, we do it because we like it. Medical discussions about drinking rarely touch on hangovers, an important consequence for serious drinkers, which I've had more times than I'd like to think about.

(Although I did swear that my most recent hangover would be my last, and given that that

was more than six weeks ago, I'd say I'm doing pretty well.) The point is that if we're reasonably responsible individuals, these are private matters whose consequences are borne by ourselves.

We drink because we want to, not because it's good for us. Whether you believe that alcohol is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy (a paraphrase of a quote usually attributed to Ben Franklin) or that God has nothing to do with this, it's clear that alcohol can bring both joy and pain.

This is also true of many other things in life, but with alcohol, many of us forgive the self-indulgence. That's almost official policy, in one way: A bottle of soda has a nutrition label; a bottle of vodka does not. These are calories you're probably not counting. (If you want to drink "light," calorie-wise, drink straight booze rather than mixed drinks, wine or beer.) Still, we feel guilty: Two-thirds of us drink, and many of us either underestimate the amount we do or actually lie about it.

In Britain, for example, drinking reported to health professionals accounts for only about 60 percent of the alcohol sold. I lie to my doctors about drinking, because by official standards I drink too much and I don't want to be scolded.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that men drink too much when we consume 15 "drinks" a week (a drink is a 5-ounce glass of wine, a shot of spirits or a beer); women get to have only eight. (Women generally weigh less than men, and alcohol may have more ill effects on women.) You also drink too much if you consume five drinks within three hours; that's a binge.

And, according to the CDC, one drink is one too many for people younger than 21. Which is absurd,

even if it's the law.

The CDC flatly says drinking too much is "dangerous," which is pretty vague, and can "lead to heart disease, breast cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, unintended pregnancy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, sudden infant death syndrome, motor-vehicle crashes, and violence."

Many of these dangerous effects are indirect and can be mitigated: If you don't have sex or get into a car after drinking, you can't possibly get pregnant or in a car accident. (One thing about drinking alcohol, though: It can cause bad judgment.) The more direct ones, like heart disease and breast cancer, have so many risk factors that drinking may perhaps be discounted, especially in moderation. And there's evidence that drinking "the right amount" - which is less than "too much" - can be good for you. But that amount varies wildly from one individual to the next, and for most people the safest amount of alcohol is probably, rationally, zero. So it's crazy to say, as people do, "I drink red wine because it's better for you than white," because mostly people drink to get buzzed, or drunk, because bad judgment is a release or fun or both.

Of course there are people who really drink too much, and we should continue to discourage overconsumption, but once again when it comes to public health we fail to prioritize correctly.

The CDC says that excessive alcohol consumption causes 88,000 deaths a year and "costs the economy about \$224 billion." Obesity-related illnesses cause somewhere around 112,000 deaths, and cost maybe a trillion dollars.

You don't see the CDC saying that people younger than 21 "drink too much" if they consume a can of soda. But it should. □

The Stuff of Great Grilled Flatbreads



Preparing a grilled flatbread to be stuffed with herbs and feta, in New York. Little additional work is needed to transform a regular flatbread into something far more interesting and substantial.

MELISSA CLARK

© 2014 New York Times

A grilled flatbread is an excellent thing. But a grilled stuffed flatbread is even better.

Admittedly, it is discreet in its charms. The outside is plain, homely even. But tear off a piece, and the delights are revealed - in this case, salty pockets of feta and bits of fresh oregano leaf. They are far more interesting and substantial than regular flatbreads, but without much additional work.

Most of the labor goes into the dough. It isn't hard, but you do have to plan ahead. The colder the dough, the more easily you can toss it on the grill without it clinging to your cutting board, your hands, your clothes, the grill grate. If you can make the dough the day before and let it rise overnight in the refrigerator, you'll be all set. Or make it the same day and chill it briefly before rolling it out.

Once you have the dough, you have a lot of latitude in filling it. I like the combination of something rich

(cheese, olives, coconut, cooked sausage or bacon, cubed avocado) with something fresh (herbs, scallions, leafy greens), anchored in an aromatic basil-garlic oil. Cooked vegetables, chopped into small pieces, also work nicely, particularly if you have small amounts of tasty leftovers in need of a home.

Just make sure not to overfill the dough; too much filling will ooze out of the seams. A couple of tablespoons per flatbread is plenty. Spread the filling onto the rolled-out dough, and fold the edges over the filling, pressing them together to seal. If you happen to be doing this outside on a sweltering day, don't be surprised if the dough starts to melt into paste. Throw everything back into the fridge and let it cool down until it's firm enough to handle. It's forgiving like that.

If stuffing the flatbread dough seems like one step too many, you have my blessing to skip it and grill the dough unstuffed. Made with whole-wheat flour, it's nutty and hearty and delicious on its own - and even

more so with the basil-garlic oil for dipping.

FETA GRILLED FLATBREADS

Time: 1 1/2 hours, plus rising time

Yield: 8 servings

1 teaspoon/5 milliliters honey

2 teaspoons/7 grams active dry yeast (1 packet)

3 cups/375 grams whole-wheat flour

2 1/2 teaspoons/13 grams fine sea salt, more as needed

3/4 cup/180 milliliters plain yogurt

1/2 cup/120 milliliters plus 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, more for brushing

2 to 3 cups/250 to 375 grams all-purpose flour, more as needed

1 cup/50 grams fresh basil leaves

2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped

1/2 cup/30 grams fresh oregano leaves

1 cup/130 grams crumbled feta cheese

1. In a small bowl, whisk together 2 cups warm water and the honey. Sprinkle yeast over warm water. Stir to dissolve. Gradually

stir in whole-wheat flour. Stir about one minute. Let mixture rest, uncovered, 15 minutes.

2. Sprinkle salt over mixture. Stir in yogurt and 1 tablespoon oil. Stir in 2 cups all-purpose flour, then add more a little at a time, until dough is too stiff to comfortably stir. Turn dough out onto a floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes. Sprinkle in additional flour as needed to yield a smooth and only very slightly sticky dough.

3. Let dough rise at room temperature in a lightly oiled bowl, loosely covered with a dish towel, until doubled in bulk, about two to three hours. Alternatively, cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.

4. In a blender or food processor, purée basil leaves, 1/2 cup oil, a large pinch of salt and the garlic. Scrape mixture into a bowl.

5. Divide dough into eight equal portions. If you let your dough rise at room temperature, chill dough balls for at least 30 minutes and up to four hours. (If

you refrigerated the dough overnight, you can skip this second chilling if the dough still feels cool.)

6. On a lightly floured surface, roll out one dough ball to a 6-inch circle (keep remaining balls on a baking sheet loosely covered with a dish towel). Brush top of circle with basil oil and sprinkle with 1 tablespoon oregano and 2 tablespoons feta. Fold edges of dough over the center of the filling and press together to seal, so filling is no longer visible. Use hands or a rolling pin to reroll dough to a 6-inch circle. Repeat with remaining dough balls.

7. Brush both sides of dough rounds with olive oil and grill for 5 to 6 minutes, flipping halfway through, or until each side has grill marks. The bread is ready to be flipped when it begins to puff and bubble. Sprinkle with salt while hot and serve with remaining basil oil for dipping.

Note: Measurements for dry ingredients are given by metric weight for greater accuracy. The equivalent measurements by volume are approximate. □

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)